

1 **BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

2 **PREAMBLE**

3 100 These Bylaws, consistent with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, further define  
4 and/or regulate the General Synod and its relationships with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and  
5 Associated Ministries and Other Bodies which are related to the General Synod, and the United  
6 Church of Christ Board, and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the Local  
7 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed Ministers  
8 sustain with the General Synod and with one another. The pattern of relationships and procedures  
9 so described is recommended to Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and authorized  
10 ministers to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United  
11 Church of Christ.

12  
13 **ARTICLE I. THE MINISTRY**

14 **Members in Discernment**

15 101 A member of a United Church of Christ Local Church wishing to explore God's call to  
16 ministry, and the potential of that call leading to authorized ministry (ordained, commissioned or  
17 licensed), requests, along with the member's Local Church, to enter a covenant of discernment  
18 with the Association.

19  
20 102 The Committee on Ministry of the member's Association interviews the member to decide  
21 whether to join with the member and the Local Church in a covenant of discernment. The goal of  
22 discernment is to determine whether the member is called to authorized ministry, what the  
23 specific character of that ministry might be, and, if authorization is appropriate, what steps are to  
24 be taken toward authorization. Normally a covenant of discernment leading to authorization is  
25 expected to be for not less than two years.

26  
27 103 The Association and the Local Church are in a mutual covenant with the Member in  
28 Discernment to offer support, counsel, and direction during this time of decision making and  
29 preparation.

30  
31 104 A Member in Discernment who is called to authorized ministry will follow a plan of  
32 preparation for that ministry which has been prepared with the Association Committee on  
33 Ministry. With respect to ordained ministry, a bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity may be  
34 included in the plan.

35  
36 **Ordained Ministry**

37 105 Not more than six months prior to the completion of theological preparation for  
38 authorization, a Member in Discernment preparing for the ordained ministry applies with the  
39 Member in Discernment's Local Church to its Association for approval as a candidate for  
40 ordination. If the service of ordination is to be performed within an Association other than that of  
41 the Member, the procedure, including that described in the following paragraph, is initiated by  
42 that Association after consultation with the Association which is in covenant with the Member in  
43 Discernment.

44  
45 106 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with  
46 respect to Christian faith; character; ability to do the work expected; preparation to meet the  
47 responsibilities of the office; educational and theological attainments; and knowledge of the  
48 history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If, following this examination, the  
49 committee is satisfied with the fitness of the Member in Discernment, it makes an affirmative  
50 recommendation to the Association. In turn, upon receipt of this recommendation, the

51 Association may opt for further examination or proceed immediately to authorize the ordination,  
52 subject to a call recognized by the Association.

53  
54 107 Ordination by an Association of the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with the Local  
55 Church, confers Ordained Ministerial Standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of  
56 Christ and recognition as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of  
57 Christ) and The United Church of Canada.

58  
59 108 After the ordination or in anticipation of it, a certificate is issued bearing the signatures of the  
60 proper officers of the Association and the General Minister and President of the United Church of  
61 Christ.

62  
63 **Ordained Ministerial Standing**

64 109 An Ordained Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another applies for a  
65 transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the new Association.

66  
67 110 An Ordained Minister engaged in Local Church ministry has standing in the Association in  
68 which the Local Church served has standing. An Ordained Minister engaged in other than Local  
69 Church ministry has standing in the Association where the Ordained Minister's Local Church  
70 membership is held.

71  
72 111 An Ordained Minister engaged in a ministry requiring prolonged absence from the United  
73 States, or one that does not permit a fixed residence, may apply to have Ordained Ministerial  
74 Standing in the Association of the Ordained Minister's choice.

75  
76 112 An Ordained Minister who withdraws from active service in the ordained ministry prior to  
77 retirement applies to the Ordained Minister's Association for Leave of Absence. The Association  
78 may grant such Leave of Absence for one year at a time. Except in special cases such Leave of  
79 Absence is not granted for more than five years in succession.

80  
81 113 An Ordained Minister retiring from active service by reason of age or disability retains  
82 Ordained Ministerial Standing in the Association of the Ordained Minister's choice. Membership  
83 in a Local Church must be maintained.

84  
85 114 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ serving a church not affiliated with the  
86 United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or The United Church of  
87 Canada, or serving a local church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United  
88 Church of Canada without Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing retains Ordained Ministerial  
89 Standing in the United Church of Christ so long as the Ordained Minister's Association approves.

90  
91 115 The church membership of an authorized minister serving in Local Church ministry shall be  
92 in the Local Church served. The church membership of an authorized minister serving in a setting  
93 other than Local Church Ministry, or of an authorized minister without fixed residence shall be in  
94 a Local Church of the United Church of Christ in the Association where the authorized minister  
95 holds or seeks authorized ministerial standing.

96  
97 **Ordained Ministers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

98 116 An ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may hold Ordained  
99 Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church  
100 of Christ calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the United Church of  
101 Christ.

102  
103 117 Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of  
104 the United Church of Christ to the Association in which the person resides, an Ordained  
105 Ministerial Partner from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may seek a call in the United  
106 Church of Christ.  
107  
108 118 An Ordained Ministerial Partner from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who accepts  
109 a call in the United Church of Christ joins a Local Church in the United Church of Christ and  
110 applies for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Association in which Local Church  
111 membership is held.  
112  
113 119 An ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds Ordained  
114 Ministerial Partner Standing in an Association shall maintain ordained ministerial standing within  
115 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Region in which the United Church of Christ calling  
116 body is located.  
117  
118 120 In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is granted by the  
119 Association where the ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called  
120 to serve and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a new consecutive call to perform  
121 the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ is  
122 extended, then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be transferred across Associations  
123 pursuant to the process for transferring standing.  
124  
125 121 Ordained ministers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) holding Ordained  
126 Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain  
127 requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.  
128  
129 122 Primary oversight of an ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
130 holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event of  
131 a fitness review, the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in which the person's  
132 ordained ministerial standing is maintained shall be informed and invited to participate in the  
133 procedures.  
134  
135 **United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in the Christian Church (Disciples of**  
136 **Christ)**  
137 123 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner  
138 Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
139  
140 (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ.  
141 Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which local  
142 church membership is held;  
143  
144 (b) shall hold local church membership in a local church of the Christian Church  
145 (Disciples of Christ); and  
146  
147 (c) shall relate to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the Ordained  
148 Minister's primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.  
149  
150 124 Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial Partner  
151 Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are expected to maintain requirements for  
152 ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

153  
154 125 Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ holding  
155 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is with the  
156 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the United  
157 Church of Christ Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to  
158 participate in the procedures. The Association may accept the procedures and outcome of the  
159 Region or utilize its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United  
160 Church of Christ.  
161  
162 126 When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church of  
163 Christ or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial  
164 Partner and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.  
165  
166 **Ordained Ministers from The United Church of Canada**  
167 127 An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada may hold Ordained Ministerial  
168 Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church of Christ  
169 calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the United Church of Christ.  
170  
171 128 Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of  
172 the United Church of Christ to an Association, an Ordained Ministerial Partner from The United  
173 Church of Canada may seek a call in the United Church of Christ.  
174  
175 129 An Ordained Ministerial Partner from The United Church of Canada who accepts a call in the  
176 United Church of Christ joins a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, and applies for  
177 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Association in which Local Church membership is  
178 held.  
179  
180 130 An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada who holds Ordained Ministerial  
181 Partner Standing in an Association shall also maintain ordained ministerial standing within their  
182 current presbytery of The United Church of Canada.  
183  
184 131 In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is granted by the  
185 Association where the ordained minister from The United Church of Canada is called to serve  
186 and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a new consecutive call to perform the duties  
187 and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ is extended,  
188 then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be transferred across Associations pursuant to  
189 the process for transferring standing.  
190  
191 132 Ordained ministers from The United Church of Canada holding Ordained Ministerial Partner  
192 Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain requirements for ongoing  
193 ministerial standing from both denominations.  
194  
195 133 Primary oversight of an ordained minister from The United Church of Canada holding  
196 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event of a  
197 fitness review, The United Church of Canada Ministry Personnel Office shall be informed and  
198 invited to participate in the procedures.  
199  
200 **United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in The United Church of Canada**  
201 134 An Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial  
202 Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada  
203

- 204 (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ.  
205 Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which Local  
206 Church membership is held.  
207  
208 (b) shall hold Local Church membership in a Local Church of the United Church of  
209 Christ and in a presbytery of The United Church of Canada.  
210  
211 (c) shall relate to The United Church of Canada for the Ordained Minister's primary  
212 support and accountability in ordained ministry.  
213

214 135 Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial Partner  
215 Standing in The United Church of Canada are expected to maintain requirements for ongoing  
216 ministerial standing from both denominations.  
217

218 136 Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds  
219 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada is with The United  
220 Church of Canada. In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the United Church of Christ  
221 Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate. The  
222 Association may accept the procedures and outcome of The United Church of Canada or utilize  
223 its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United Church of Christ.  
224

225 137 When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church of  
226 Christ or The United Church of Canada, that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial Partner  
227 and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.  
228

229 **Ordained Ministers from Denominations Other than the Christian Church (Disciples of**  
230 **Christ) or The United Church of Canada**

231 138 An ordained minister of a denomination other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
232 who desires to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ applies for Privilege of  
233 Call to the Association within whose bounds the minister resides.  
234

235 139 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the applicant as to the applicant's  
236 abilities, reasons for desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ,  
237 educational and theological attainments, knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the  
238 United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience. If the applicant is found to be  
239 qualified, the Association grants Privilege of Call, thereby declaring said applicant eligible to  
240 seek a call in the United Church of Christ. Privilege of Call shall be granted for a period of one  
241 year and may be renewed. After accepting a call, the ordained minister applies for Ordained  
242 Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ to the Association of which the Local Church  
243 of membership is a part.  
244

245 140 An ordained minister of another denomination other than the Christian  
246 Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United Church of Canada who wishes to retain ordained  
247 ministerial standing in that denomination and who has become pastor of a Local Church of the  
248 United Church of Christ, or serves in a Covenanted, Affiliated or Associated Ministry of the  
249 United Church of Christ, or has become pastor of a yoked charge or a federated church one part  
250 of which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, or has been called to an ecumenical  
251 ministry one constituent of which is the United Church of Christ, may apply to the Association  
252 for dual ordained ministerial standing which is limited to duration of that pastorate or that  
253 responsibility, and during that period may have all the rights and privileges of such membership.  
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**Commissioned Ministers**

141 A Member in Discernment seeking initial recognition and authorization as a Commissioned Minister applies with the Member in Discernment’s Local Church to the Association of which that church is a member.

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

143 Commissioned Ministers are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Licensed Ministers on the rolls of the Association.

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

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

146 A Commissioned Minister who ceases to function in the specific church-related ministry to which the minister was commissioned resigns the commission or applies to the Association for Leave of Absence. Leave of Absence is granted for one year at a time, but not more than three consecutive years.

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

**Licensed Ministers**

148 A Member in Discernment seeking recognition and authorization as a Licensed Minister applies with the Member in Discernment’s Local Church to the Association of which that church is a member.

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

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

305 151 Licensed Ministers are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Commissioned  
306 Ministers on the rolls of the Association.

307  
308 152 A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by  
309 the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting  
310 membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

311  
312 **Calling, Installing and Terminating a Pastor**

313 153 It is the responsibility of a committee of the Local Church to seek a candidate for a vacancy  
314 in the office of pastor.

315  
316 154 In filling a vacancy or in securing pastoral services during the period of a vacancy, the  
317 committee of the Local Church, through its Conference Minister, obtains counsel and access to  
318 the services of the “Search and Call” process of the United Church of Christ.

319  
320 155 The committee of a Local Church requests the Conference Minister to secure relevant  
321 information about any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister  
322 whom it wishes to consider or who requests to be considered for the vacancy.

323  
324 156 Any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister may confer with  
325 the Conference Minister concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the Ordained Minister’s request or at  
326 the request of the Ordained Ministerial Partner, that person’s name shall be submitted by the  
327 Conference Minister for consideration by the committee of any Local Church where there is a  
328 pastoral vacancy.

329  
330 157 All vacancies within the Conference shall be reported promptly to the designated  
331 administrative office in the National Setting of the Church.

332  
333 158 The committee of the Local Church presents to the Local Church the name of a candidate it  
334 recommends to fill the vacancy. The Local Church determines whether or not it wishes to call the  
335 person recommended.

336  
337 159 In the call agreement the terms of the pastoral relationship are stated, including the agreement  
338 of the Local Church to participate in the pension fund on the pastor’s behalf. The pastor, the  
339 Local Church, Association Committee on Ministry, and the Conference Minister should each  
340 receive a copy of the call agreement. The Conference Minister shall inform the designated  
341 administrative office in the National Setting of the Church when the call has been accepted.

342  
343 160 When an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister accepts a call to a Local Church, the  
344 Minister and the Local Church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of  
345 installation or recognition.

346  
347 161 Report of the service of installation or recognition is signed by the proper officer of the  
348 Association and by the Conference Minister, and is reported to the designated administrative  
349 office in the National Setting of the Church.

350  
351 162 When a pastor or a Local Church decides to terminate the pastoral relationship, notice of the  
352 decision is sent to the Conference Minister and the Association. The Association takes action  
353 appropriate to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Conference Minister promptly  
354 informs the designated administrative office in the National Setting of the Church.

355

356 **Ministerial Accountability**  
357 163 All authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ are active partners in a covenant of  
358 mutual accountability with their Association of standing, their Local Church, and, in the case of  
359 those serving in settings other than a Local Church, with their calling body. Such a covenant  
360 includes, but is not limited to, mutual support and care, continued discernment of call, and  
361 lifelong learning.  
362  
363 164 All authorizations for Ordained Ministerial Standing, for Ordained Ministerial Partner  
364 Standing, and for commissioned and licensed ministry granted by an Association are subject to  
365 oversight by that Association, including periodic consultation and review.  
366  
367 165 The ecclesiastical oversight of Ordained Ministers, persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner  
368 Standing, Commissioned Ministers, and Licensed Ministers is the responsibility of the  
369 Association in which their current ecclesiastical authorization is held.  
370  
371 **ARTICLE II. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES**  
372 **Associations**  
373 166 An Association elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary  
374 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the Conference and  
375 the General Synod.  
376  
377 167 An Association determines its own method for securing financial support.  
378  
379 168 An Association is concerned with the welfare of all Local Churches within its boundaries.  
380  
381 169 An Association seeks ways and means to assist Local Churches when they are undergoing  
382 unusual difficulties requiring help beyond their own resources.  
383  
384 170 An Association offers encouragement, guidance, and assistance in the organization of new  
385 Local Churches.  
386  
387 171 An Association, with the counsel of the Conference, receives Local Churches into the United  
388 Church of Christ.  
389  
390 172 An Association covenants with members of the United Church of Christ within that  
391 Association as together they discern God’s call to authorized ministry and prepare for ordination,  
392 commissioning or licensing.  
393  
394 173 An Association ordains, commissions, and licenses qualified candidates; grants standing as a  
395 covenantal relationship with Ordained Ministers, Licensed Ministers, Commissioned Ministers,  
396 and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; certifies to, transfers, and terminates  
397 Ordained Ministerial Standing, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, commissioned ministerial  
398 standing and licenses; installs Ordained Ministers and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner  
399 Standing; covenants with Licensed Ministers, Commissioned Ministers, and the Local Churches  
400 to which they are called; grants Privilege of Call and Leaves of Absence; reviews and  
401 ecclesiastically oversees Ordained, Commissioned, and Licensed Ministers and persons with  
402 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; and verifies that an Ordained Ministerial Partner has  
403 demonstrated knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United  
404 Church of Christ.  
405



406 174 An Association receives and acts upon business referred to it by its Local Churches, its  
407 Conference, the General Synod, and other bodies.  
408  
409 175 An Association may petition and overture its Conference or the General Synod.  
410  
411 **Conferences**  
412 176 A Conference elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary  
413 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the General Synod.  
414  
415 177 A Conference employs such salaried personnel as its program may require.  
416  
417 178 A Conference receives and acts upon business, requests, counsel, and references from Local  
418 Churches, Associations, the General Synod, and other bodies.  
419  
420 179 A Conference provides names to the General Synod Nominating Committee as requested.  
421  
422 180 A Conference may petition and overture the General Synod.  
423  
424 181 A Conference chooses delegates and alternate delegates to the General Synod in accordance  
425 with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and these Bylaws.  
426  
427 182 A Conference receives from the Local Churches contributions for denominational support  
428 and keeps detailed records of the same.  
429  
430 183 A Conference consults on a regular basis with the General Minister and President, or the  
431 General Minister and President's designee, acting on behalf of the General Synod, to reach  
432 mutual agreement upon the percentage, or the dollar amount, of the undesignated gifts for  
433 denominational support to be retained for its own support.  
434  
435 184 Upon the basis of the agreed upon percentage, or dollar amount, the Conference each month  
436 retains the amount necessary for its own support and forwards the balance to the treasury office of  
437 the National Setting.  
438  
439 185 A Conference, in the interest of the Local Churches, discharges those duties and provides  
440 those services which will strengthen the witness of the United Church of Christ, such as:  
441  
442 a) Coordinating the work and witness of the Local Churches and Associations;  
443  
444 b) Rendering counsel to Local Churches and ministers in situations calling for help  
445 beyond their own resources;  
446  
447 c) Rendering an advisory service to Local Churches and to ministers with reference to  
448 pastoral search;  
449  
450 d) Establishing and maintaining Conference offices, Conference centers, institutions, and  
451 other agencies needful to its growth and welfare;  
452  
453 e) Sponsoring in-service training for ministers; and  
454  
455 f) Conducting conferences, retreats, clinics, and workshops.  
456

457 186 A Conference maintains ecumenical and interfaith relations within its boundaries with other  
458 fellowships to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.

459

### 460 **ARTICLE III. THE GENERAL SYNOD**

#### 461 **Meetings of the General Synod**

462 187 The term of the General Synod begins at the opening of the regular meeting of the General  
463 Synod and terminates at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod. Regular  
464 meetings of the General Synod shall be held biennially until the close of the 2023 General Synod  
465 term in 2025. Regular meetings shall be held triennially beginning in 2025, with the next regular  
466 meeting of the General Synod following the 2025 meeting to occur in 2028.

467

468 188 Special meetings of the General Synod may be called by resolution of the General Synod, by  
469 the United Church of Christ Board, or upon receipt of a petition from at least twenty percent of  
470 the Conferences. A special meeting so petitioned shall be convened not earlier than three months  
471 nor later than four months after the petition is received by the General Minister and President of  
472 the United Church of Christ. The petition and the call for a special meeting shall contain a  
473 statement of the purpose of the meeting. In any special meeting only such business may be  
474 transacted as is specified in the call.

475

476 189 The time and place of all meetings of the General Synod shall be determined by the United  
477 Church of Christ Board unless otherwise directed by the General Synod.

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479 190 The call for any meeting of the General Synod shall be signed by the General Minister and  
480 President of the United Church of Christ. Such call shall be issued at least six months prior to a  
481 regular meeting and at least three months prior to a special meeting of the General Synod. All  
482 calls shall be sent to the Conferences and the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries,  
483 and notice of these calls shall be transmitted to the Local Churches by the Conferences.

484

485 191 All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by  
486 the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as amended. Any regular or  
487 special meeting of the General Synod may be held remotely or in a hybrid format, as determined  
488 by the United Church of Christ Board, with all or some delegates attending through  
489 communications equipment that allows delegates to communicate contemporaneously with one  
490 another.

491

492 192 Expenses of General Synod delegates, including travel expenses for meetings of the General  
493 Synod, shall be the responsibility of the sending groups, except expenses of Conference voting  
494 delegates as negotiated with the Conferences shall be borne by the General Synod.

495

#### 496 **Membership of the General Synod**

497 193 The membership of the General Synod shall consist of voting delegates and associate  
498 delegates. Visitors shall be welcome.

499

#### 500 **Voting Delegates**

501 194 Voting delegates shall consist of Conference delegates, all members of the United Church of  
502 Christ Board, and delegates named by the Historically Underrepresented Groups, as these are  
503 hereinafter defined. All voting delegates shall be members of a Local Church of the United  
504 Church of Christ. Each voting delegate to the General Synod shall be entitled to a single vote at  
505 the General Synod.

506

#### 507 **Conference Delegates**

508 195 The number of Conference delegates shall be allocated to each Conference by the United  
509 Church of Christ Board on the basis of the number of persons who have membership in the Local  
510 Churches of the Conference. There shall not, however, be fewer than three delegates allocated to  
511 any Conference. The total number of Conference delegates in any General Synod term shall not  
512 be fewer than 675 nor more than 725. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be chosen by each  
513 Conference from among its authorized ministers in full standing and persons with Ordained  
514 Ministerial Partner Standing and the members of its Local Churches. Conferences may initiate  
515 and consider nominations from the Associations. From each Conference, except in Conferences  
516 having three delegates, (a) lay persons shall constitute at least fifty percent of the delegates and  
517 (b) the delegation shall reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to the values of  
518 diversity, equity, and inclusion; it shall be representative of people of diverse races, ethnicities,  
519 genders, gender expressions and youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of each  
520 delegation shall be under 30 years of age at the time of the commencing of their terms, and where  
521 possible, be represented equally by (1) youth, persons of high school age; and (2) young adults,  
522 persons graduated from high school or over 19 years of age). In Conferences with three delegates  
523 the above requirements for representation are recommended but shall not be mandatory. Despite  
524 any lack of exact compliance with these requirements, actions of a General Synod which is  
525 constituted in substantial compliance with these representation requirements, as determined by  
526 the United Church of Christ Board, shall be valid.

527  
528 196 The term of Conference delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin  
529 at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall  
530 continue for a General Synod term, terminating at the opening of the second regular meeting of  
531 the General Synod following such election. Conference delegates may serve two consecutive  
532 terms. Conferences are encouraged to have delegates serving initial terms and delegates serving  
533 second terms in their delegations. No delegate who has served two consecutive terms shall again  
534 be elected until after at least one General Synod term has elapsed. Delegates shall be members of  
535 all regular and special meetings of the General Synod which are held during their term of office  
536 unless they have become separated from the Conference which elected them. Conferences  
537 electing delegates to a four-year term for the 2023 meeting of the General Synod under the 2021  
538 United Church of Christ Bylaws may extend the terms of delegates to 2028 or hold such  
539 additional elections to special terms as necessary to ensure a full delegation to any special  
540 meetings and the 2028 meeting of the General Synod, and compliance with this Bylaw thereafter.

541  
542 **United Church of Christ Board Delegates**

543 197 The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting delegates at the General  
544 Synod, and their term shall be concurrent with their terms as members of the United Church of  
545 Christ Board.

546  
547 **Historically Underrepresented Groups Delegates**

548 198 There shall be forty (40) Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, four (4) from each  
549 of the Historically Underrepresented Groups: Council for American Indian Ministry; The  
550 Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific  
551 Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; UCC Disabilities Ministries;  
552 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; the United Samoan Ministries; the Open and  
553 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ; and the UCC Mental Health Network. The  
554 term of Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired  
555 terms, shall begin at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their  
556 election and shall continue for a General Synod term, terminating at the opening of the second  
557 regular meeting of the General Synod following such election. Historically Underrepresented  
558 Groups delegates may serve two consecutive terms. No delegate who has served two consecutive

559 terms shall again be elected until after at least one General Synod term has elapsed. Historically  
560 Underrepresented Groups electing delegates to a four-year term for the 2023 meeting of the  
561 General Synod under the 2021 United Church of Christ Bylaws may extend the terms of  
562 delegates to 2028 or hold such additional elections to special terms as necessary to ensure a full  
563 delegation to any special meetings and the 2028 meeting of the General Synod, and compliance  
564 with this Bylaw thereafter.  
565

566 **Associate Delegates**

567 199 Unless otherwise serving as a voting delegate to the General Synod, the chairperson of the  
568 governing body and the principal minister(s) or executive(s) of each Conference; the chairperson  
569 of each Task Force created by the General Synod not otherwise represented on the United Church  
570 of Christ Board; the chairperson of each General Synod standing committee; a representative of  
571 the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ); and one representative of each of the seminaries of  
572 the United Church of Christ not otherwise represented, chosen by the seminary, shall be  
573 Associate Delegates, with voice but without vote.  
574

575 **Ecumenical Delegates**

576 200 In each General Synod term the United Church of Christ Board may invite a representative  
577 from each of its U.S. and Canada full communion partners as an associate delegate to the General  
578 Synod of the United Church of Christ. In addition, the United Church of Christ Board may invite  
579 a representative from up to three other partner churches in the United States. These  
580 representatives shall be accorded the same privileges as Associate Delegates.  
581

582 **Moderators of the General Synod**

583 201 The Moderator shall be elected by the General Synod. The office of Moderator shall be filled  
584 alternately by lay persons and authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner  
585 Standing. The Moderator shall take office upon the adjournment of the regular meeting at which  
586 the Moderator is elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting or until a  
587 successor has been qualified and installed.  
588

589 202 The Moderator shall preside at the sessions of the General Synod.  
590

591 203 There shall be elected an Assistant Moderator of the General Synod to assist the Moderator in  
592 presiding at sessions of the General Synod. The Assistant Moderator shall take office upon  
593 adjournment of the regular meeting at which the Assistant Moderator was elected and shall hold  
594 office through the next regular meeting. The Assistant Moderator will be eligible for nomination  
595 and election to the position of Moderator, upon completion of the term of Assistant Moderator.  
596

597 204 The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall include an authorized minister or a person with  
598 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson, and shall reflect the diversity to which the  
599 United Church of Christ is committed.  
600

601 **Committees of the General Synod**

602 205 The General Synod shall have such Committees as it may deem necessary, including but not  
603 limited to those named hereafter.  
604

605 206 **Nominating Committee** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 16 members elected by  
606 the General Synod as follows:  
607

608 a) Ten members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the Conferences, as  
609 follows: At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the

610 United Church of Christ Board shall invite each Conference not currently represented on  
611 the Nominating Committee to submit the name of an authorized minister or a person with  
612 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and the name of a layperson for possible  
613 membership on the Nominating Committee as an at-large member. The United Church of  
614 Christ Board shall submit these names, to the General Synod. Not more than one of the  
615 at-large members of the Nominating Committee shall be from any one Conference.  
616 Notwithstanding this requirement, if a member of the Nominating Committee moves to a  
617 Conference from which there is another member of the Committee currently serving, the  
618 member moving to the Conference currently served by another member shall continue to  
619 serve as a member of the Nominating Committee until the end of the General Synod  
620 term. The position on the Nominating Committee held by the member who moved  
621 becomes vacant at the end of the General Synod term during which the above change in  
622 Conference occurs.

623  
624 b) Four members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the following  
625 groups: the Council for American Indian Ministry; The Colectivo de UCC Latinx  
626 Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian  
627 American Ministries; United Black Christians; United Samoan Ministries, the Open and  
628 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ; UCC Disabilities Ministries; the  
629 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; and the UCC Mental Health Network. At  
630 least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the United Church  
631 of Christ Board shall invite each of the six groups not currently represented on the  
632 Nominating Committee to submit the names of an authorized minister or a person with  
633 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson for possible membership on the  
634 Nominating Committee. The United Church of Christ Board shall submit to the General  
635 Synod for election the number of names needed to maintain four members from these  
636 groups on the Nominating Committee. Two members will be an authorized minister or a  
637 person with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and two members will be laypersons.  
638 The Conference affiliations of the representatives from these groups will not affect the  
639 determination of the Conference affiliation of the at-large members elected in accordance  
640 with paragraph 206a.

641  
642 c) Two members will be appointed from among the members of the United Church of  
643 Christ Board.

644  
645 d) The diversity of the Nominating Committee shall reflect the diversity requirements for  
646 the United Church of Christ Board, as set forth in these bylaws.

647  
648 e) (i) A member of the Nominating Committee who has served a full term shall not be  
649 eligible for re-election until a General Synod term has elapsed. Terms of members shall  
650 begin at the close of the General Synod meeting at which the members have been elected  
651 and continue to the close of the third regular General Synod term after their election. The  
652 Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be named by the United Church of  
653 Christ Board from the members of the Nominating Committee within six months after  
654 each regular meeting of the General Synod. (ii) Notwithstanding the preceding provision,  
655 the terms and eligibility for Nominating Committee members called at meetings of the  
656 General Synod from 2015 through 2025 shall be governed by the Transitional  
657 Nominating Committee Terms chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to account for a  
658 time of transition as the General Synod term changes from two years to three years.  
659

660 207 The Nominating Committee of the General Synod, prior to the call for nominations, reviews  
661 the composition of the continuing membership of the United Church of Christ Board and  
662 determines the needed nominations. In its call for suggestions of names, the Nominating  
663 Committee will indicate the criteria consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws which will be  
664 used for filling positions on the United Church of Christ Board. Each Conference or group to be  
665 represented shall provide at least two names for each of the positions.  
666

667 208 The Nominating Committee shall make all nominations for election by the General Synod for  
668 which the Constitution and Bylaws do not otherwise provide. The Nominating Committee shall  
669 consider, but not be limited to, such attributes as candidates' leadership, a wide range of life  
670 experience and background including socio-economic, cultural competency, financial knowledge,  
671 fund raising experience, community building skills, commitment to justice, and understanding of  
672 good governance. The Nominating Committee shall maintain records of suggested nominees and  
673 their qualifications.  
674

675 209 The Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring that the membership of the United  
676 Church of Christ Board embodies the commitment of the United Church of Christ to diversity and  
677 balance, both in its overall composition and in its internal segments. In order to achieve this end,  
678 the Nominating Committee may, if necessary, approach any group submitting and/or  
679 recommending names with the request that they assist in that task by presenting additional names.  
680

681 210 When selecting candidates for offices, the Nominating Committee shall consider all names  
682 submitted.  
683

684 211 The Nominating Committee shall submit its report to the General Synod at least twenty-four  
685 hours before the elections are scheduled to take place, unless the General Synod, by a three-  
686 fourths vote, consents to an earlier election.  
687

#### 688 **Credentials Committee**

689 212 The Credentials Committee shall be the United Church of Christ Board or persons designated  
690 by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The Credentials Committee will  
691 review the composition of the Conference and other voting delegations for compliance with the  
692 composition requirements of these Bylaws and is empowered to request changes in membership  
693 to all voting delegations so that said delegations and the Delegation as a Whole will be in  
694 compliance with the provisions of these Bylaws.  
695

#### 696 **Budget Committee, Business Committee, and Committee of Disposition**

697 213 The Budget Committee, the Business Committee, and the Committee of Disposition at each  
698 regular and special meeting of the General Synod shall be the United Church of Christ Board or  
699 persons designated by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The role and  
700 scope of the Budget Committee, Business Committee and the Committee of Disposition shall be  
701 determined by the United Church of Christ Board.  
702

#### 703 **Officers of the United Church of Christ**

704 214 The General Synod shall call by election, from among the members of the United Church of  
705 Christ, the General Minister and President, the Associate General Ministers, and such other  
706 officers of the United Church of Christ as the General Synod may from time to time determine.  
707

708 215 Each Officer of the United Church of Christ serves at the will of the General Synod, and may  
709 be terminated as an Officer of the United Church of Christ by the United Church of Christ Board

710 acting as the General Synod ad interim in accordance with the United Church of Christ Board's  
711 procedures.

712  
713 216 (a) The term of each Officer of the United Church of Christ shall be two regular terms of the  
714 General Synod, terminating at the opening of the third regular term of the General Synod  
715 following such election, and shall commence within ninety days following call by election by the  
716 General Synod. Officers of the United Church of Christ shall hold office until their successors  
717 have been elected and qualified and have assumed the duties of their office. Officers of the  
718 United Church of Christ may be reelected, but not more than once, subject to the call by election  
719 of the General Synod. (b) Notwithstanding the preceding provision, the terms and eligibility for  
720 reelection of Officers called at meetings of the General Synod from 2015 through 2025 shall be  
721 governed by the Transitional Officer Terms chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to account for a  
722 time of transition as the General Synod term changes from two years to three years.

723  
724 **General Minister and President**

725 217 The General Minister and President, who shall have Ordained Ministerial Standing or  
726 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, is called to ministry in and on behalf of the United Church  
727 of Christ upon election by the General Synod.

728

729 a) Spiritual Leader of the Church:

730 The General Minister and President is the spiritual leader and pastor of the Church,  
731 charged with the care and nurture of the spiritual life of the Church. The General Minister  
732 and President is responsible for the unity and well-being of the Church, and for nurturing  
733 its covenantal life and ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and leading the visioning,  
734 planning, coordination and implementation of the total mission of the United Church of  
735 Christ.

736

737 b) Theological Interpreter:

738 The General Minister and President is the principal leader in interpreting the theological  
739 perspectives and values of the United Church of Christ as guided by the General Synod  
740 and in consultation with the Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General  
741 Minister and President is the chief representative of the United Church of Christ in the  
742 public square and at ecumenical, interdenominational and interfaith tables.

743

744 c) Convener:

745 The General Minister and President will convene and preside at the meetings of the  
746 Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is  
747 responsible for coordinated communication, fund raising and planning in collaboration  
748 with the Associate General Ministers. The General Minister and President is a member of  
749 the Mission Planning Council.

750

751 d) Chief Executive Officer:

752 The General Minister and President is the Chief Executive Officer of the General Synod  
753 and is its principal spokesperson. The General Minister and President oversees the  
754 administration of the National Setting offices. The General Minister and President leads  
755 and directs the work of the Associate General Ministers and the Officers of the United  
756 Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is the executive ultimately  
757 responsible for all hiring and termination decisions in the National Setting of the United  
758 Church of Christ. The General Minister and President may from time to time delegate  
759 administrative responsibilities as the needs of the Church and good judgment dictate.

760

761 The General Minister and President serves as the corporate President of the United Church of  
762 Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, and all other corporations related to the  
763 Covenanted Ministries. The General Minister and President determines the delegation and  
764 direction of the work of the Covenanted Ministries to the Associate General Ministers, with the  
765 affirmation of the United Church of Christ Board.  
766

767 The General Minister and President serves as an ex-officio member in all meetings of the  
768 Affiliated and Associated Ministries. The General Minister and President shall serve as an ex-  
769 officio member, with voice, but not vote, in the meetings of all Commissions, Councils, and  
770 Committees of the United Church of Christ, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and  
771 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; except that the General Minister and President shall not  
772 participate in the work of the Search Committee for the General Minister and President. The  
773 General Minister and President shall be the official representative of the Church in ecumenical,  
774 interdenominational, and interfaith relations. The General Minister and President may appoint a  
775 representative for such occasions as the General Minister and President deems advisable.  
776

777 218 The General Minister and President is accountable to the General Synod and the United  
778 Church of Christ Board, acting as the General Synod ad interim.  
779

780 219 The candidate for the position of General Minister and President is nominated for an initial  
781 term by a search committee of the United Church of Christ, broadly representative of the Church,  
782 and appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. The search committee includes at least one  
783 Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers and one representative of the  
784 Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the COREM  
785 members on the United Church of Christ Board, each with voice and vote. At least one member  
786 shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully  
787 respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Officers of the  
788 United Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is confirmed by a two-  
789 thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board before the candidate's name is placed before the  
790 General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not be  
791 made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the General Synod is  
792 necessary for election and call. The General Minister and President does not participate in the  
793 work of the search committee choosing a successor. The General Minister and President is  
794 evaluated regularly through a process approved by the United Church of Christ Board. In the  
795 event that the General Minister and President is unable to discharge the responsibilities of that  
796 Office, or if there is a vacancy in that Office, the United Church of Christ Board shall name an  
797 Associate General Minister to serve as Acting General Minister and President until the General  
798 Minister and President returns to service or is replaced by a successor elected by the General  
799 Synod after a search process.  
800

#### 801 **Associate General Ministers**

802 220 An Associate General Minister may be a lay person, an authorized minister, or a person with  
803 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. Each Associate General Minister serves as an appointed  
804 member of the United Church of Christ Board and accordingly as a member of the Board of  
805 Directors of each Covenanted Ministry.  
806

807 221 Each Associate General Minister will be responsible for the work of the Covenanted  
808 Ministries, as delegated and directed by the General Minister and President and affirmed by the  
809 United Church of Christ Board of Directors.  
810



811 222 As led by the General Minister and President, each Associate General Minister will be  
812 involved in the overall functions of the National Setting, including visioning and planning,  
813 communications, development and management of budgets, development and leadership of staff,  
814 and implementation of policies adopted by the General Synod and the United Church of Christ  
815 Board.

816  
817 223 Each Associate General Minister will be accountable to the General Synod through the  
818 United Church of Christ Board. Each Associate General Minister serves at the will of the United  
819 Church of Christ Board and may be terminated by the United Church of Christ Board, acting as  
820 the General Synod ad interim, in accordance with its procedures.

821  
822 224 Each Associate General Minister is an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

823  
824 225 Each Associate General Minister is to be nominated for an initial term by a search committee  
825 of the United Church of Christ broadly representative of the Church, appointed by and from the  
826 United Church of Christ Board. The search committee shall include the General Minister and  
827 President; one Conference Minister, named by the Council of Conference Ministers; one  
828 representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance,  
829 from the COREM members on the Board of Directors and one representative of the UCC  
830 Disabilities Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the UCC Disabilities Ministries  
831 member on the Board of Directors, each with voice and vote. At least one member shall be a  
832 youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully respected in  
833 the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Officers of the United  
834 Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is to be confirmed by a two-  
835 thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors before the candidate's name is  
836 placed in nomination before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election,  
837 and nominations may not be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of  
838 the General Synod is necessary for the call by election. An Associate General Minister does not  
839 participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. The Associate General  
840 Minister is evaluated regularly by a process approved by the United Church of Christ Board of  
841 Directors. The evaluation process shall include the General Minister and President, with voice  
842 and vote. Terms of office shall begin within ninety days following their election. An Associate  
843 General Minister shall hold office until the Associate General Minister's successor has been  
844 elected and qualified and has assumed the duties of the Office.

845  
846 226 In the event that an Associate General Minister is unable to discharge the responsibilities of  
847 that position, or if there is a vacancy in the office, the United Church of Christ Board of  
848 Directors, in consultation with the General Minister and President, may appoint an Acting  
849 Associate General Minister, who shall be an Acting Officer of the Church, according to its rules  
850 and procedures acting as the General Synod ad interim. An Acting Associate General Minister  
851 shall serve until the Associate General Minister returns to service, or is replaced by a successor  
852 called by election by the General Synod.

853  
854 **United Church of Christ Board**

855 227 The United Church of Christ Board continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor  
856 bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of  
857 Christ.

858  
859 228 The United Church of Christ Board shall consist of up to 52 members. Thirty-six members  
860 shall serve in at-large positions and up to 16 members shall be appointed members with voice and  
861 vote. The composition of the United Church of Christ Board shall embody the commitment of the

862 United Church of Christ to be a diverse, equitable, and inclusive Church open and accessible to  
863 all, reflecting a balance of leadership among people of diverse races, ethnicities, genders, gender  
864 expressions, and sexuality. All members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting  
865 members, except as legally proscribed and noted below.  
866

867 229 The 36 at-large members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee, and  
868 elected by the General Synod as members of the United Church of Christ Board, shall reflect the  
869 following composition at the time of their election:  
870

- 871 • A majority shall be persons of color.
- 872 • A majority shall be persons who identify as women, both transgender and cisgender; non-binary  
873 persons; or gender non-conforming persons. The remaining members may be persons who  
874 identify as men, both transgender and cisgender.
- 875 • One-third shall be authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.
- 876 • Two-thirds shall be laypersons.
- 877 • Twenty percent shall be under 30 years of age. To the extent possible, the under 30 years of age  
878 members shall include both youth of high school age and young adults. All such members shall  
879 be voting members except as legally proscribed.
- 880 • At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as having a disability.
- 881 • At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or asexual.  
882 At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as transgender, non-binary, or gender  
883 non-conforming.

884  
885 a) i) At-large members shall serve one term of three regular meetings of the General  
886 Synod, which shall commence at the close of the General Synod meeting at which the  
887 person is elected and qualified and shall terminate at the close of the General Synod  
888 meeting in which a successor is elected and qualified. At-large members shall be divided  
889 into three classes of 12 members each, with a class of 12 members being elected at each  
890 General Synod. No at-large member who has served more than one-half of a full term  
891 shall be nominated to serve again until at least one regular meeting of the General Synod  
892 has elapsed. Nominations for the at-large positions shall be solicited from all entities and  
893 organizations within the United Church of Christ. There shall not be more than three at-  
894 large members from any one Conference at the time of an individual's election. ii)  
895 Notwithstanding the previous provision, the terms of at-large members elected at  
896 meetings of the General Synod from 2019 to 2031 shall be governed by the Transitional  
897 UCCB Member Terms chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to account for a time of  
898 transition as the General Synod term changes from two years to three years.  
899

900 b) The General Synod Nominating Committee nominates these persons after submission  
901 of names, according to the procedures established in these Bylaws, and criteria  
902 determined by the Nominating Committee. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure  
903 that the membership of the United Church of Christ Board reflects the diversity to which  
904 the United Church of Christ is committed, the Nominating Committee may ask for  
905 additional names to be submitted.  
906

907 230 Appointed members of the United Church of Christ Board with voice and vote shall include:  
908

- 909 a) The Officers of the United Church of Christ.
- 910
- 911 b) The Moderator and the Assistant Moderator of the General Synod.
- 912

- 913 c) One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term  
 914 of two years. Any such member shall be eligible to serve up to two additional terms and  
 915 not to exceed three terms.  
 916
- 917 d) Six principal ministers of Conferences, one to be elected from each Region by the  
 918 Council of Conference Ministers for a term of one General Synod term, not to exceed two  
 919 consecutive terms. If any such member ceases during the member's term of office on the  
 920 United Church of Christ Board to be the principal minister of a Conference within the  
 921 Region from which said member was elected, a vacancy shall be thereby created to be  
 922 filled by election by the Council of Conference Ministers.  
 923
- 924 e) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc.  
 925
- 926 f) The Executive of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ  
 927
- 928 g) The Executive of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries  
 929
- 930 231 Although members of the United Church of Christ Board may be nominated or selected by  
 931 particular groups, each member serves on behalf of, and bears responsibility for, the well-being of  
 932 the whole Church.  
 933
- 934 232 The United Church of Christ Board shall elect, from its members who are elected by the  
 935 General Synod, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson according to its own Standing Rules.  
 936
- 937 233 The United Church of Christ Board shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall not  
 938 be members of the United Church of Christ Board, and shall have voice but no vote. The  
 939 Secretary and the Treasurer may be appointed from staff members at the National Setting, who  
 940 shall report to the General Minister and President, who is directly accountable to the United  
 941 Church of Christ Board.  
 942
- 943 234 The Secretary and the Treasurer shall have the customary duties of a corporate secretary and  
 944 treasurer to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.  
 945
- 946 **Responsibilities of the United Church of Christ Board**
- 947 235 The United Church of Christ Board shall act for the General Synod ad interim, and, in  
 948 cooperation with the Officers of the United Church of Christ, shall provide coordination and  
 949 evaluation of the work of the Church and shall carry out such other responsibilities as may be  
 950 from time to time delegated to it by the General Synod or as provided for in these Bylaws or the  
 951 Constitution.  
 952
- 953 a) The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible for strategic planning and  
 954 policymaking. The Committees of the United Church of Christ Board shall make  
 955 recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board for strategic  
 956 planning, policymaking, and oversight purposes. The United Church of Christ Board  
 957 shall receive recommendations from the Investment and Endowment Committee  
 958 regarding the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the  
 959 mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries. Recommendations as to the annual draw  
 960 rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of  
 961 the annual draw rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic  
 962 donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds shall not be modified

963 by the United Church of Christ Board except upon a two-thirds vote of the members  
964 present of the full Board.

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

984  
985 236 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, or committees of the General Synod, or in the  
986 membership of the United Church of Christ Board, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled by  
987 the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be  
988 reported to the next General Synod.

989  
990 237 The United Church of Christ Board shall make such elections, nominations or appointments  
991 as these Bylaws or action of the General Synod may require.

992  
993 238 Acting as the Budget Committee for the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board  
994 shall determine the allocation of funds from denominational support. The United Church of Christ  
995 Board, acting as the Budget Committee, shall also receive and review the past and projected use  
996 of denominational funds allocated to each Covenanted Ministry and recommend the  
997 denominational support threshold amount for each General Synod regular meeting interval.

998  
999 239 The United Church of Christ Board shall be an incorporated body in order to ensure that it  
1000 may effectively and expeditiously perform all legal functions of the General Synod and all of its  
1001 other functions as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.  
1002 The membership of the Corporation shall consist of those persons described in the Bylaws as  
1003 members of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ, who shall be elected or  
1004 affirmed in the manner therein provided and who shall have the right to vote only to the extent  
1005 granted by the Bylaws. Those members shall also be the Directors of the Corporation. The  
1006 Corporation shall have such officers as required by law and as provided in these Bylaws. The  
1007 Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs bylaws and rules not  
1008 inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation nor with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and  
1009 regulations of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

1010  
1011 240 The United Church of Christ Board shall serve as the Business Committee of the General  
1012 Synod during its sessions, and as such shall prepare the agenda and schedule for all meetings of

1013 the General Synod, recommend changes therein during sessions, and appoint committees not  
1014 otherwise provided.

1015

1016 **Administration of the National Setting Offices**

1017 241 The General Minister and President shall oversee the administration of the National Setting  
1018 offices.

1019

1020 **Committees of the United Church of Christ Board**

1021 242 The United Church of Christ Board shall have such other Committees as it may deem  
1022 necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter, and each may draw on expertise  
1023 beyond the Board if necessary.

1024

1025 **Ministry Committees**

1026 243 The United Church of Christ Board shall establish committees relating to the mission and  
1027 ministry of the United Church of Christ (the Ministry Committees). Each Ministry Committee  
1028 shall make recommendations to the United Church of Christ Board regarding ministry priorities  
1029 and policy. The Ministry Committees will honor the diversity commitments of the United Church  
1030 of Christ and work in covenant with each other and National Setting staff. To the extent possible  
1031 while still maintaining expertise needed on the Ministry Committees, the composition of each  
1032 Ministry Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to a  
1033 multicultural and multiracial Church, with leadership reflecting race and gender diversity, open  
1034 and accessible to all. To the extent possible while still maintaining expertise needed on the  
1035 Ministry Committees, each United Church of Christ Board member will be assigned to a Ministry  
1036 Committee based on that individual's experience, expertise, personal passion and spiritual calling.  
1037 Individuals also will be considered based on the role that they may serve as members of the  
1038 Common Global Ministries Board, the mission partnership between the United Church of Christ  
1039 and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each Ministry Committee will elect a chairperson  
1040 and a vice-chairperson, subject to the requirement that at least one of these positions must be held  
1041 by a person of color in each Ministry Committee.

1042

1043 **Executive Committee**

1044 244 The Executive Committee shall consist of up to 16 members of the United Church of Christ  
1045 Board, as follows:

1046

1047 a) Chairperson and vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board

1048

1049 b) Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Governance  
1050 Committee, Investment and Endowment Committee, and Development Committee

1051

1052 c) The Officers of the United Church of Christ

1053

1054 d) One Conference Minister

1055

1056 e) Moderator of the General Synod

1057

1058 f) Three additional at-large members, one from each of the three classes

1059

1060 g) To the extent possible while still maintaining diversity and expertise, the composition  
1061 of the Executive Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of  
1062 Christ to a multicultural and multiracial Church, with membership reflecting age, race,  
1063 and gender diversity, open and accessible to all.

1064  
1065 245 The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to ensure that visioning and strategic  
1066 planning be done on behalf of the National Setting of the Church. It will lead the United Church  
1067 of Christ Board in developing and articulating comprehensive and integrated strategies and goals  
1068 for the National Setting. The Executive Committee will facilitate the United Church of Christ  
1069 Board's identification of concerns and ideas related to communications, identity, fundraising,  
1070 fund development, strategic planning, evangelism, and other critical issues for the life of the  
1071 whole Church. The decision-making power and authority of the Executive Committee shall be  
1072 governed by the standing rules of the United Church of Christ Board.

1073  
1074 **Finance and Budget Committee**

1075 246 The Finance and Budget Committee shall consist of up to 12 members of the United Church  
1076 of Christ Board, including:

- 1077  
1078 a) Chairperson or vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board  
1079  
1080 b) Six representatives of the United Church of Christ Board  
1081  
1082 c) General Minister and President  
1083

1084 247 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- 1085  
1086 a) Reviewing the annual available resources and being responsible for financial planning.  
1087  
1088 b) Reviewing the proposed Annual Budget recommended by the General Minister and  
1089 President in consultation with key staff and mission partners, such as Common Global  
1090 Ministries.  
1091  
1092 c) Recommending the Annual Budget to the United Church of Christ Board.  
1093  
1094 d) Receiving and reviewing regular financial reports.  
1095

1096 **Investment and Endowment Committee**

1097 248 The Investment and Endowment Committee shall consist of up to 14 members and shall be  
1098 members of the United Church of Christ Board (except as noted below), including:

- 1099  
1100 a) Six representatives from the United Church of Christ Board  
1101  
1102 b) The Officers of the United Church of Christ  
1103  
1104 c) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc., with voice but without vote  
1105  
1106 d) The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may add up to three  
1107 individuals with legal and/or investment expertise who are not members of the United  
1108 Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.  
1109

1110 249 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- 1111  
1112 a) Assuring that the legacy/historic restrictions on the use of restricted funds and the  
1113 intended use restrictions of the unrestricted funds of each of the historic ministries are  
1114 monitored, accounted for, maintained and reported to the United Church of Christ Board

- 1115 annually. The Committee shall monitor and oversee the allocation of both restricted and  
 1116 unrestricted funds to ensure that they will be allocated based on donor intent, whenever  
 1117 that can be determined and to provide the full Board an overview of all funds in order to  
 1118 encourage the most effective collaborative and holistic use of those funds to meet the  
 1119 missional needs of the Church.  
 1120
- 1121 b) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board investment policies including  
 1122 investment screens that reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to  
 1123 corporate social responsibility.  
 1124
- 1125 c) Managing the investment of the endowed funds and other assets including real  
 1126 property in accordance with investment policies approved by the United Church of Christ  
 1127 Board.  
 1128
- 1129 d) Monitoring and reporting on the management of invested funds to the United Church  
 1130 of Christ Board.  
 1131
- 1132 e) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the annual draw rate on invested  
 1133 funds that may be used to carry out the mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries.  
 1134 Recommendations as to the annual draw rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar  
 1135 amounts resulting from the application of the annual draw rate to each of the restricted  
 1136 endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the  
 1137 unrestricted endowment funds shall be accepted by the United Church of Christ Board  
 1138 unless modified by a vote of two-thirds of the members present of the full Board.  
 1139
- 1140 f) Reviewing, monitoring and recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the  
 1141 allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the spending rate  
 1142 to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses  
 1143 of each of the unrestricted endowment funds.  
 1144
- 1145 g) Providing Board representation to the Investment Committee of the United Church  
 1146 Funds, Inc.  
 1147

1148 **Audit Committee**

1149 250 The Audit Committee shall consist of such members as determined by the United Church of  
 1150 Christ Board, provided that members of the Board must comprise a majority of the members of  
 1151 the Audit Committee. The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may  
 1152 include on the Audit Committee individuals with legal and/or financial expertise who are not  
 1153 members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.  
 1154 All Committee members shall be voting members.  
 1155

1156 251 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:  
 1157

- 1158 a) Retaining the audit firm to perform the annual financial audit.  
 1159
- 1160 b) Receiving and reviewing the audit report from the auditors and reporting to the United  
 1161 Church of Christ Board.  
 1162
- 1163 c) Such other duties as assigned by the United Church of Christ Board.  
 1164

1165 **Regions**

1166 252 The United Church of Christ Board shall make an appropriate assignment of the several  
1167 Conferences into Regions. The Regions as thus determined shall form the basis for Conference  
1168 representation on national bodies wherever required by the Bylaws.

1169

1170 **Organization of the United Church of Christ Board**

1171 253 The United Church of Christ Board shall organize itself as it deems necessary to carry out its  
1172 responsibilities and fulfill its mandates.

1173

1174 **Advisory Commissions**

1175 254 The United Church of Christ Board may provide for special advisory commissions on  
1176 subjects of pervasive interest to the entire Church on which the United Church of Christ Board  
1177 and/or the General Minister and President need policy or substantive advice. Members of such  
1178 commissions and its chairperson shall be appointed by the United Church of Christ Board  
1179 pursuant to its Standing Rules and shall include at least one member of the United Church of  
1180 Christ Board.

1181

1182 **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION**

1183 255 The work of the United Church of Christ shall be carried out by the United Church of Christ  
1184 Board, the Covenanted, Affiliated, Associated Ministries, Councils, and other such bodies as may  
1185 from time to time be created by, or related to, the General Synod or the United Church of Christ  
1186 Board.

1187

1188 **COVENANTED MINISTRIES**

1189 256 The Covenanted Ministries are Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and  
1190 Wider Church Ministries.

1191

1192 257 The General Minister and President oversees the programmatic work of the Covenanted  
1193 Ministries, which shall be carried out in accordance with the policies, planning, and broad  
1194 oversight of the United Church of Christ Board as provided in these Bylaws.

1195

1196 **LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES**

1197 **Purpose and Mission**

1198 258 The purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support the  
1199 Local Churches of the United Church of Christ in the fulfillment of God's mission. It continues  
1200 the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified  
1201 in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation.  
1202 The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Local Church Ministries  
1203 shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of  
1204 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff  
1205 assigned by the General Minister and President. Local Church Ministries shall retain  
1206 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have  
1207 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

1208

1209 259 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries, the United Church of  
1210 Christ Board shall encourage Local Churches to shape their life and mission in partnership with  
1211 one another, with other expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical and interfaith  
1212 communities. The United Church of Christ Board will work to promote the vocation of all  
1213 members, leadership of laity and clergy, and facilitate a system of ecclesiastical call. The United  
1214 Church of Christ Board will nurture stewards, and will coordinate and promote denomination-  
1215 wide mission funding. The United Church of Christ Board will work with Local Churches in  
1216 striving for the vitality of Local Churches as inclusive and accessible communities of mission,



1217 evangelism, church development, education, unity, worship, nurture, and justice so that the good  
1218 news of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed in word and deed.

1219  
1220 260 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1221 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church.

1222  
1223 **Governance and Leadership**

1224 261 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries shall be  
1225 incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United  
1226 Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and  
1227 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the  
1228 rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries performs the  
1229 functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to  
1230 carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations.  
1231 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the  
1232 purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated  
1233 funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation  
1234 and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility  
1235 for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing,  
1236 and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant  
1237 authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf  
1238 within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of  
1239 Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the  
1240 Church necessary for implementing its mission.

1241  
1242 262 Members of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole  
1243 Church.

1244  
1245 **JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

1246 **Purpose and Mission**

1247 263 The purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage  
1248 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of  
1249 Christ to engage in God's mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice,  
1250 and peace. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other  
1251 ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its  
1252 articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of  
1253 Justice and Witness Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of  
1254 Christ Board. The United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be  
1255 coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the General Minister and President. Justice and  
1256 Witness Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received,  
1257 maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal  
1258 of its legacies or other property.

1259  
1260 264 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Church  
1261 of Christ Board shall encourage the Church in all of its expressions to speak prophetically on  
1262 matters of justice, power, and public policy. The United Church of Christ Board shall assist the  
1263 Church in all of its expressions to confront expressions of injustice and alienation in the Church  
1264 and in the society. The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for the Church's  
1265 ministry of service on behalf of those who are poor, the forgotten and the oppressed, and for those  
1266 marginalized by stigma and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or their disabilities,

1267 including mental illness. The United Church of Christ Board may provide public witness on  
1268 behalf of the justice and witness policies of the General Synod.

1269  
1270 265 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1271 Churches, Associations, Conferences, national expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical  
1272 and interfaith groups, and community organizations.

1273  
1274 **Governance and Leadership**

1275 266 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
1276 shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the  
1277 United Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the  
1278 Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and  
1279 bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Justice and Witness  
1280 Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such  
1281 additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of  
1282 associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it  
1283 has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted,  
1284 restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is  
1285 responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its  
1286 own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its  
1287 mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its  
1288 office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other  
1289 appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and  
1290 those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task  
1291 groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.

1292  
1293 267 Members of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries serve on behalf of the  
1294 whole Church.

1295  
1296 **WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES**

1297 **Purpose and Mission**

1298 268 The purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support  
1299 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of  
1300 Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church, accessible to all, and to  
1301 support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. It continues the work  
1302 of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies and continues other ministries, as specified in the  
1303 Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation. The  
1304 program, administrative, and financial development functions of Wider Church Ministries shall  
1305 be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of  
1306 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff  
1307 assigned by the General Minister and President. Wider Church Ministries shall retain  
1308 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have  
1309 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

1310  
1311 269 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of  
1312 Christ Board shall strengthen relationships with partner churches and oversee participation in the  
1313 Common Global Ministries Board in joint venture with the Christian Church (Disciples of  
1314 Christ). The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for institutional ministries in  
1315 health care, education, disaster relief, and social services in the United States and internationally.  
1316 It shall also coordinate volunteer ministries in all expressions of the Church. In cooperation with  
1317 partner churches it shall promote interfaith dialogue and global education and advocacy issues.

1318 Through the Common Global Ministries Board, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee  
1319 the sending and receiving of missionaries.

1320

1321 270 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1322 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church and of the  
1323 ecumenical and interfaith bodies.

1324

1325 **271 Governance and Leadership** Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ,  
1326 Wider Church Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised  
1327 of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as  
1328 defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of  
1329 incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of  
1330 Wider Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and  
1331 such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of  
1332 associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it  
1333 has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted,  
1334 restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is  
1335 responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its  
1336 own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its  
1337 mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its  
1338 office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other  
1339 appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and  
1340 those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task  
1341 groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.

1342

1343 272 Members of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole  
1344 Church.

1345

#### 1346 **OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1347 273 The Officers of the United Church of Christ, defined in Article IV of the Constitution of the  
1348 United Church of Christ, support and consult with the United Church of Christ Board and the  
1349 Covenanted Ministries in carrying out their work in a spirit of coordination and cooperation. The  
1350 General Minister and President is the presiding Officer. Led by the General Minister and  
1351 President, the Officers of the United Church of Christ are responsible for providing leadership for  
1352 the mission programming in the United Church of Christ and for the proper implementation of  
1353 General Synod actions. The Officers of the United Church of Christ coordinate research, long-  
1354 range planning, program evaluation, and report on the ongoing programs of the United Church of  
1355 Christ.

1356

1357 274 The Officers of the United Church of Christ are convened by the General Minister and  
1358 President as the presiding officer and consult with the United Church of Christ Board and the  
1359 General Synod. They shall consult regularly with the leaders of the Affiliated and Associated  
1360 Ministries of the United Church of Christ. They meet regularly with the Cabinet of the Council of  
1361 Conference Ministers.

1362

#### 1363 **MISSION PLANNING COUNCIL**

1364 275 The Mission Planning Council provides a multi-missional setting which brings together the  
1365 Officers of the United Church of Christ, and principal staff of the United Church of Christ Board  
1366 and the Covenanted, Associated, and Affiliated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, for  
1367 planning coordinated ministries and for visioning and exploring new perspectives over a wide  
1368 range of mission, theological, ecumenical, spiritual, stewardship, financial, justice,

1369 communications, gender, disability, and racial issues and concerns. The Mission Planning  
1370 Council is responsible for the coordination and correlation of mission and purpose and for  
1371 maintaining mutual trust, mutual accountability, and the wise use of leadership and talents. It is  
1372 designed to encourage cooperation and sharing of talents among the Ministries. The Mission  
1373 Planning Council may invite others to participate, including representatives of Conferences and  
1374 partner churches, as it deems appropriate. The General Minister and President coordinates the  
1375 tasks, meetings, agendas, and follow-up actions of the Mission Planning Council.

1376

1377 **AFFILIATED MINISTRY**

1378 276 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, The Pension Boards—United  
1379 Church of Christ is an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ and serves the Church  
1380 and its United Church of Christ Board and Covenanted Ministries as a separate corporation.

1381

1382 277 The purpose of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is to make available  
1383 ministerial welfare activities and a system of employee benefit programs designed to assist  
1384 authorized ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and  
1385 retirement years.

1386

1387 278 The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ continues as a nonprofit membership  
1388 corporation which determines its own governance and leadership. The Pension Boards—United  
1389 Church of Christ will have membership on the United Church of Christ Board.

1390

1391 **ASSOCIATED MINISTRY**

1392 279 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the United Church Funds, Inc., is  
1393 an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ, and  
1394 serves the Church, the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries as a  
1395 separate corporation related to the United Church of Christ Board.

1396

1397 280 The purpose of the United Church Funds, Inc. is to provide a means by which individuals and  
1398 organizations of the Church may further exercise their stewardship of resources for the sake of  
1399 strengthening the mission of the Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United Church of  
1400 Christ.

1401

1402 281 The United Church Funds, Inc. will work cooperatively with the United Church of Christ  
1403 Board to facilitate comprehensive financial planning and development; and will continue its  
1404 relationship with The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ. It shall have membership on the  
1405 United Church of Christ Board.

1406

1407 282 The corporate membership of the United Church Funds, Inc. shall consist of 15 persons  
1408 nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board for three General Synod terms, one-  
1409 third to be elected each General Synod term and to serve until their respective successors are  
1410 elected and qualified. The General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the  
1411 chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board shall be appointed members. At least two of the  
1412 members elected General Synod term shall not be members of the United Church Funds, Inc. at  
1413 the time of their election. The United Church of Christ Board may remove a member of the  
1414 United Church Funds, Inc. and shall fill vacancies for unexpired terms.

1415

1416 **Other Provisions**

1417 283 No person shall serve in more than one General Synod elected position simultaneously.  
1418 Further, no employee of a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry shall serve as a voting  
1419 member of the United Church of Christ Board, except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws.

1420  
1421 284 All members of the United Church of Christ Board, with the exception of the representatives  
1422 from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), shall be members of the United Church of Christ.  
1423

1424 **ARTICLE V. INDEMNIFICATION**

1425 285 Any Officer of the United Church of Christ, or any member, including officers and directors,  
1426 of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board or the Councils, Commissions, and  
1427 Committees of the General Synod may, to the full extent allowed by law, be indemnified by the  
1428 United Church of Christ Board against all judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement of,  
1429 and against all reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily, incurred  
1430 in defense of any lawsuit, proceeding or prosecution (including appeal thereof) wherein such  
1431 person is made a party by reason of being such officer or member to the extent such person is not  
1432 otherwise indemnified by another entity. This provision shall also extend to any lawsuit,  
1433 proceeding, or prosecution in which such officer or member is made a party in such person's  
1434 capacity as an officer or member of another organization in which the person serves at the request  
1435 of any of the above entities or bodies.  
1436

1437 286 In all other lawsuits, proceedings, or prosecutions, indemnity shall not be made unless the  
1438 officer or member acted in good faith and for a purpose which the person reasonably believed to  
1439 be in the best interests of the Entity or body of which the person is an officer or member and in  
1440 criminal actions or proceedings only upon the additional requirement that the person had no  
1441 reasonable cause to believe that the operative conduct or inaction was unlawful.  
1442

1443 287 These indemnity provisions shall also operate for the benefit of anyone duly serving in a  
1444 representative capacity for such member or officer.  
1445

1446 288 The United Church of Christ Board is authorized to purchase insurance providing  
1447 indemnification pursuant to the provisions of the preceding. Any such contract of insurance may  
1448 afford coverage for matters as to which the United Church of Christ Board may not give  
1449 indemnity.  
1450

1451 **ARTICLE VI. OTHER BODIES**

1452 The following groups are identified as related in covenant to the United Church of Christ, through  
1453 a primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board.  
1454

1455 **COUNCILS**

1456 **Council for American Indian Ministry**

1457 289 Created by the Eighth General Synod in 1971 (71-GS-77) and given its present mandate by  
1458 the Sixteenth General Synod in 1987 (87-GS-58), the Council for American Indian Ministry  
1459 (CAIM) is a national body with primary responsibility for providing Christian ministry and  
1460 witness in American Indian settings, and is a resource to the whole United Church of Christ in  
1461 understanding and supporting American Indian churches and communities. The Council for  
1462 American Indian Ministry supports and gives general direction to the American Indian members  
1463 and congregations of the United Church of Christ, advocating with them, through CAIM's  
1464 Recognized Unit of Ministry, to embody their own cultures and values and to be vital parts of the  
1465 United Church of Christ and the Conferences in which they are located. The Council for  
1466 American Indian Ministry encourages and supports the identification, enlistment, and support of  
1467 American Indian candidates for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Working with  
1468 American Indian people throughout the United Church of Christ, the Council seeks to develop  
1469 broad bases of visibility, nurture and support for American Indian people, communities, and  
1470 churches. The Sixteenth General Synod vote calls for CAIM to be accountable to the General

1471 Synod through the United Church of Christ Board and to be funded from one-third of the net  
1472 income of the neighbors in need offering.

1473

1474 **Council for Higher Education**

1475 290 The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be composed of the academies, colleges, and  
1476 theological schools that indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of  
1477 Christ and that are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of  
1478 representative(s) from the United Church of Christ Board. For purposes of business and policy  
1479 making, member academies, colleges, and theological schools shall be represented by each  
1480 institution's executive head or other key officer as designated by each institution's executive  
1481 head. The Council shall organize with its own chairperson, secretary, and any other officers  
1482 needed to carry on its work. All officers shall be executive heads of their institutions. The Council  
1483 shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board;  
1484 this provision not precluding the Council's right to direct access to the General Synod concerning  
1485 any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of  
1486 such access. An Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President  
1487 shall be an advisory member of the Council with voice but without vote. The Council shall be  
1488 organized in two sub-sections: College and Academy Section, and Seminary Section. The  
1489 Council for Higher Education shall advance and interpret higher education in the United Church  
1490 of Christ, including the cultivation of closer relationships between the educational institutions and  
1491 the Church, the expression of the connection between faith and knowledge in those institutions,  
1492 and, in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board, the promotion of education as an  
1493 integral part of the Church's mission.

1494

1495 **Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries**

1496 291 Created by the Fourteenth General Synod (83-GS-43) the Council for Racial and Ethnic  
1497 Ministries (COREM) provides a place where racial and ethnic groups can develop their common  
1498 agenda, collaborate with appropriate program and mission bodies of the United Church of Christ  
1499 so that resources for racial and ethnic ministries will be effective and relevant, discern appropriate  
1500 ways by which the many and varied gifts of racial and ethnic groups may be made available to the  
1501 Church, and advocate for racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ. It is  
1502 composed of two representatives each from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry  
1503 (PAAM), The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries, the Council for American Indian Ministry  
1504 (CAIM), United Black Christians (UBC), Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice  
1505 (MRSEJ), and United Samoan Ministries (USM) who are accountable to the groups that send  
1506 them. COREM is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board.

1507

1508 **Council for Theological Education**

1509 292 The Council for Theological Education (CTE) shall be responsible for fostering mutual  
1510 accountability between the United Church of Christ and the Seminaries of the United Church of  
1511 Christ, for periodic reviews of the criteria for being designated as a Seminary of the United  
1512 Church of Christ, and for the general well-being of the relationship between the seminaries and  
1513 the United Church of Christ. The Council will exercise care for the Seminaries, explore ways by  
1514 which theological education contributes to the leadership needs of the Church, foster cooperation  
1515 among the Seminaries, and facilitate communication and appropriate engagement between the  
1516 Seminaries of the United Church of Christ and Historically Related Seminaries and with other  
1517 seminaries which provide theological education for persons preparing for authorized ministry in  
1518 the United Church of Christ. Seminaries of the United Church of Christ retain full membership  
1519 and responsibility in the Council for Higher Education and its seminary section. The Council will  
1520 provide comment to the United Church of Christ Board whenever the United Church of Christ  
1521 Board prepares to recommend a seminary for recognition as a Seminary of the United Church of

1522 Christ. The Council shall be composed of the President and one additional representative from  
1523 each of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, a representative from one of the  
1524 Historically Related Seminaries, two representatives from the Council of Conference Ministers  
1525 elected by that Council, two conference staff persons who relate to a Committee on Ministry  
1526 and/or work with the search and call process from a conference not otherwise represented on the  
1527 Council, four persons who serve on a Committee on Ministry, the General Minister and President,  
1528 and an Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President. The General  
1529 Minister and President will assign staff members as necessary to support the programmatic work  
1530 of the Council. An intentional effort will be made to ensure that those who have been historically  
1531 under-represented be present in the membership of the Council. The Council shall meet annually  
1532 and shall elect its own officers each General Synod term.  
1533

#### 1534 **Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

1535 293 The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM) shall serve to advocate,  
1536 support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United  
1537 Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod  
1538 on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society.  
1539 It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in  
1540 all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young  
1541 adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource  
1542 regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not  
1543 limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and the  
1544 General Synod). The Council shall organize itself as needed in order to carry out its work and  
1545 shall have direct access to the United Church of Christ Board and the General Synod in areas of  
1546 program and budget. The Council's composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ's  
1547 commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in church governance.  
1548

#### 1549 **Council of Conference Ministers**

1550 294 The Council of Conference Ministers (CCM) shall be composed of the Conference Ministers  
1551 of the several Conferences. The General Minister and President shall be a member ex-officio,  
1552 without vote, of the Council and its Cabinet. It shall select a chairperson and such other officers  
1553 and committees as it shall deem necessary. It shall elect from its members those who are to serve  
1554 on the United Church of Christ Board and in other representative positions, distributing those  
1555 positions among the Regions. It shall maintain a close relationship with the Officers of the United  
1556 Church of Christ, the United Church of Christ Board, and national units the Covenanted  
1557 Ministries, the Affiliated Ministry, and the Associated Ministry with respect to matters affecting  
1558 the life of the Church.  
1559

#### 1560 **Historical Council**

1561 295 The Historical Council (HC) shall be composed of twelve members, with at least one  
1562 representing the following historical archival organizations:  
1563 Evangelical Synod Archives at Eden Seminary (primary repository of Evangelical Synod and  
1564 Eden Theological Seminary records);  
1565 Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society (ERHS) (primary repository for Reformed Church  
1566 in the United States and Evangelical and Reformed Church materials);  
1567 American Congregational Association/Congregational Library and Archives (primary repository  
1568 of Congregational and Christian materials);  
1569 The Amistad Research Center (primary repository for American Missionary Association  
1570 materials);  
1571

1572 Afro-Christian Preservation Society Archives at Franklinton Center (primary repository of Afro-  
1573 Christian Convention and churches materials); and  
1574 UCC Archives (primary repository for post-1957 institutional material).  
1575 The remaining six shall be appointed by the United Church of Christ Board (including one  
1576 representative from the Christian Connection/Christian Tradition). One-third shall be named each  
1577 General Synod term (after 2025) to serve a Council term of two General Synod terms or until  
1578 their respective successors are named and qualified, and not to exceed two Council terms. The  
1579 United Church of Christ Board will name from these twelve members the chairperson. The  
1580 Council shall meet at the call of the General Minister and President or the chairperson. It shall act  
1581 in an advisory capacity to the General Minister and President and the United Church of Christ  
1582 Board in engaging with the archives of the United Church of Christ and of the other historical  
1583 organizations; in expressing interest and concern for all archival collections related to the several  
1584 heritages of the denomination; and in reminding the United Church of Christ of its traditions. The  
1585 Council shall receive financial support through the United Church of Christ Board and staff  
1586 support as assigned by the General Minister and President.  
1587

### 1588 **Council for Health and Human Service Ministries**

1589 296 The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) was recognized by the  
1590 Fifteenth General Synod as an organization composed of institutions and programs in health and  
1591 welfare related to the United Church of Christ and accepted by the CHHSM as conforming to its  
1592 standards. The CHHSM is organized with its own Directorate and Officers. The purposes and  
1593 functions of the CHHSM shall include: 1) The support and nurture for its member institutions and  
1594 programs in fulfillment of their ministries as part of the mission of the United Church of Christ;  
1595 2) Representation of the ministries of its member institutions and programs to the General Synod  
1596 and United Church of Christ Board in the conduct of the mission of the United Church of Christ  
1597 in health and welfare; 3) Cooperation with the Conferences and the United Church of Christ  
1598 Board in the process of Conference recognition of health and human service ministries,  
1599 monitoring the authorization to seek funds within Conferences, and approval of requests to  
1600 conduct capital campaigns; 4) Provision, annually, to the United Church of Christ Board, the  
1601 names of those member institutions and programs which conform to the standards set by  
1602 CHHSM; 5) Cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board in collecting information on  
1603 institutions and programs in health and welfare to be listed in the *United Church of Christ*  
1604 *Yearbook*; and 6) Participation in secular, ecumenical, and inter-faith networks in the field of  
1605 health and welfare.  
1606

### 1607 **SELF-CREATED GROUPS**

#### 1608 **The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries**

1609 297 The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries is a diverse community of children of a God who  
1610 created us to flourish in this world, to live in interconnection with one another and creation  
1611 through intentional relationships grounded in love, justice, and peace. We believe in Jesus' Good  
1612 News message of extravagant welcome to ALL at the table of God, the acknowledgement and  
1613 value of the diversity of people and their gifts, the promise of life in abundance, and freedom and  
1614 wholeness for all of creation. In the spirit of mutual accountability, The Colectivo de UCC Latinx  
1615 Ministries commits to sharing our experience and gifts with the whole church as we claim our  
1616 place within the body of Christ, seeking to be members, not a mission of the United Church of  
1617 Christ. Our membership is comprised of individuals, congregations, Associations, Conferences,  
1618 and nationally based ministries of United Church of Christ who have endorsed the values and  
1619 goals of the Colectivo and agree to join in covenant to strengthen and support the mission and  
1620 ministry of Latinx people in the UCC. We also welcome dialogue and connections with  
1621 ecumenical partners and community-based organizations that share our values.  
1622



1623 **Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice**  
1624 298 Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ) is a group which brings together  
1625 clergy who advocate on behalf of African Americans in church and society, providing a caucus of  
1626 ministers for fellowship, for sharing mutual concerns, and for actions regarding the agenda of the  
1627 black constituency within the United Church of Christ. MRSEJ challenges, monitors, initiates,  
1628 and supports the cause of African American involvement to the fullest possible measure in the  
1629 life of the United Church of Christ.

1630  
1631 **UCC Disabilities Ministries**  
1632 299 The UCC Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM) strives for the full inclusion of persons with  
1633 disabilities in the life and mission of the Church. The UCCDM encourages all settings of the  
1634 United Church of Christ to be open, inclusive, affirming, and accessible in their buildings,  
1635 worship, education, fellowship, and service so that they may proclaim God's word to and with all  
1636 persons, including those with disabilities. It seeks to enable all members of the United Church of  
1637 Christ to affirm the theological/biblical affirmations of the wholeness of all people, and to  
1638 recognize the ministry to and with persons with disabilities as a part of the ministry of all the  
1639 baptized. The UCCDM Board of Directors includes persons with disabilities, members of  
1640 families of persons with disabilities, experts on disabilities, and other persons from the United  
1641 Church of Christ who support the purposes of the UCCDM and reflect the diversity of the United  
1642 Church of Christ.

1643  
1644 **Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries**  
1645 300 Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM), organized in 1974 and recognized  
1646 by the Tenth General Synod, advocates for the presence, participation and contributions of  
1647 PAAM in the life of the United Church of Christ and serves its constituent members and  
1648 churches, initiating and supporting their life, and working for greater representation in wider  
1649 church settings. It seeks to strengthen Local Churches, to nurture and develop lay and clergy  
1650 leadership for the church, and to address issues of justice. As an advocate group for the rights of  
1651 people, PAAM is involved in issues of the rights of Pacific Islander and Asian people in the  
1652 United States and in the United Church of Christ and works in the areas of rights for women and  
1653 children, the poor on welfare, institutional racism, and political prisoners.

1654  
1655 **United Black Christians**  
1656 301 United Black Christians (UBC) is a special interest group which represents over 50,000  
1657 African-American members of the United Church of Christ. It stands in the affirmation that each  
1658 person has gifts to offer to the Church, and that each is entitled to full rights and privileges as  
1659 children of God. UBC dedicates itself to providing voice for all African-American members of  
1660 the United Church of Christ, seeking to witness to, and preserve the history and legacy of the  
1661 African-American people and churches. UBC is an active advocate for liberation and social  
1662 justice at home and abroad.

1663  
1664 **The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ**  
1665 302 The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ (The Coalition) is  
1666 composed of members and friends of the United Church of Christ who affirm the good news that  
1667 all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions are loved and  
1668 empowered by God. The Coalition actively works to combat prejudice and seeks justice for, and  
1669 the full inclusion and involvement of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians in all  
1670 expressions of the United Church of Christ. In its leadership and outreach, The Coalition is  
1671 committed to ending exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and  
1672 expression, race, age, size, class and/or ableness. It promotes mutual ministries of pastoral care,  
1673 education, and advocacy within the United Church of Christ and society as a whole; encourages

1674 Local Churches, Associations and Conferences to become “Open and Affirming” (ONA); and  
1675 organizes within Conferences to make resources of The Coalition available to all.

1676

1677 **United Samoan Ministries**

1678 303 United Samoan Ministries was organized in 2010 and recognized by the Twenty Ninth  
1679 General Synod in Long Beach, California, in 2013. USM conducted its reorganization process  
1680 between 2011 and 2014. USM is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan  
1681 congregations in the United Church of Christ to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual  
1682 support, and communications to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. USM also seeks but is not  
1683 limited to: strengthening channels of communication among Samoan congregations in the United  
1684 Church of Christ (UCC) and their respective ministries; exchanging of information and building  
1685 communication about the UCC in all its settings including local congregations, Associations,  
1686 Conferences, National Ministries and Global Partners; establishing a setting for collective  
1687 decision-making that will fulfill the USM Mission Statement and strengthen the covenantal  
1688 relationships among Samoan congregations within the UCC; providing a setting to develop and  
1689 enhance the leadership and cultural identities among Samoan congregations in order to empower  
1690 them in the UCC; and recognizing and celebrating the unique insights and contributions of  
1691 Samoans throughout the life of the UCC. USM encourage all Samoans of all ages to affirm their  
1692 unique ethnic and cultural identities while embracing the Still Speaking God and find joy,  
1693 spiritually “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

1694

1695 **UCC Mental Health Network**

1696 304 The UCC MHN faithfully seeks to understand and address the impact of mental health  
1697 challenges on the members of our congregations, in our communities, and our society. We  
1698 encourage all settings of the UCC to be welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with  
1699 persons who are living with a mental health challenge, brain disorder, and substance use disorder.  
1700 All are invited into the Body of Christ, and those living with mental health conditions are  
1701 welcomed into the work and leadership of the Church. Through educational materials,  
1702 conferences across the country, practical resources, stories from individuals and congregations,  
1703 and the WISE for Mental Health certification, the UCC MHN answers Jesus’ call to build the  
1704 Kingdom of God. We urge congregations, Associations, and Conferences of the UCC to become  
1705 WISE about mental health as a way to live fully with justice, peace, and love. The UCC MHN  
1706 Board of Directors does this work through a diversity of people, especially those who are  
1707 personally living with mental health challenges, brain disorders, substance use disorders, and  
1708 their loved ones, as well as professionals in mental health and recovery from addiction.

1709

1710 **Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers**

1711 305 The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers (AACM) is in service of all persons who  
1712 serve in the role either designated as Associate Conference Minister or all the various titles of  
1713 those functioning in similar job responsibilities and expectations. The AACM serves to support,  
1714 equip, and network those who serve in a staff or called position doing Conference ministry in the  
1715 support of the Conference Minister and the Conference.

1716

1717 **Relationships**

1718 306 Unless otherwise designated in these Bylaws, each of the aforementioned bodies shall have a  
1719 primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board which shall serve as its primary  
1720 linkage to the national expressions of the United Church of Christ, to which it shall report  
1721 annually. This primary relationship shall be defined by the United Church of Christ Board in  
1722 consultation with the respective group. The designated relationship shall be reviewed each  
1723 General Synod term by the appropriate partners, and may be changed upon the mutual consent of

1724 those partners, and so declared by vote of the United Church of Christ Board. The General  
1725 Minister and President shall be responsible for initiating said review.

1726  
1727 In effect July 3, 2017; amendments approved by the General Synod in 2017 that were contingent upon ratification of the amendments  
1728 to the Constitution were effective October 13, 2018. Updated effective June 25, 2019 upon recognition by the General Synod of The  
1729 Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries and UCC Mental Health Networks as Historically Underrepresented Groups.

1730  
1731 In effect July 18, 2021; amendments approved by the General Synod; Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers was recognized by  
1732 the General Synod as a Self-Created Group; Historical Council description updated.

1733  
1734 In effect July 2, 2023; amendments approved by the General Synod to move the term of General Synod from two years to three years.

1735  
1736 In effect October 6, 2023; Historical Council description updated.

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APPENDIX A

**Transitional United Church of Christ Board Terms**

General Synod Year Board Composition	Board Class		
	Year of Election		
	Number of At-Large Members		
2023	Class of 2025	Class of 2027/2028*	Class of 2031**
	Elected in 2019	Elected in 2021	Elected in 2023
	12	12	12
2025	Class of 2027/2028	Class of 2031	Class of 2034
	Elected in 2021	Elected in 2023	Elected in 2025
	12	12	12
2028	Class of 2031	Class of 2034	Class of 2037
	Elected in 2023	Elected in 2025	Elected in 2028
	12	12	12
2031	Class of 2034	Class of 2037	Class of 2040
	Elected in 2025	Elected in 2028	Elected in 2031
	12	12	12

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\* The class of 2027, elected in 2021, will become the class of 2028 following the bylaws amendment, and serve a seven-year term. It will serve GS terms 2021-2023, 2023-2025, and 2025-2028.

\*\* The class of 2031, elected in 2023, serves an eight-year UCCB term, consisting of the following GS terms: 2023-2025, 2025-2028, and 2028-2031.

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 1755

**Transitional General Synod Nominating Committee Terms**

<b>General Synod Year Nominating Committee Composition</b>	<b>Nominating Committee Class</b>		
	<b>Year of Election</b>		
	<b>Number of Members</b>		
2023	Class of 2025	Class of 2027/2028*	Class of 2031**
	Elected in 2019	Elected in 2021	Elected in 2023
	5	6	5
2025	Class of 2027/2028	Class of 2031	Class of 2034
	Elected in 2021	Elected in 2023	Elected in 2025
	6	5	5
2028	Class of 2031	Class of 2034	Class of 2037
	Elected in 2023	Elected in 2025	Elected in 2028
	5	5	6
2031	Class of 2034	Class of 2037	Class of 2040
	Elected in 2025	Elected in 2028	Elected in 2031
	5	6	5
2034	Class of 2037	Class of 2040	Class of 2043
	Elected in 2028	Elected in 2031	Elected in 2034
	6	5	5

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\* The class of 2027 will become the class of 2028 following the bylaws amendment, and serve a seven-year term. The class will serve 2021-2023, 2023-2025, and 2025-2028.

\*\* The class of 2031, elected in 2023, serves an eight-year Nominating Committee term, consisting of the following GS terms: 2023-2025, 2025-2028, and 2028-2031.

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 1765  
 1766

**Transitional Officer Terms\***

Officer Elected at GS:	First Re-Election	Second Re-Election	Final Expiration	Possible GS Terms	Total Possible Time
2017	2021	2025	2028	5: 2017-2019 2019-2021 2021-2023 2023-2025 2025-2028	11 years
2019	2023	2028	2031	5: 2019-2021 2021-2023 2023-2025 2025-2028 2028-2031	12 years
2021 (none)	2025	2028	2031	4: 2021-2023 2023-2025 2025-2028 2028-2031	10 years
2023	2028	Not eligible	2034	4: 2023-2025 2025-2028 2028-2031 2031-2034	11 years
2025	2031	Not eligible	2037	4: 2025-2028 2028-2031 2031-2034 2034-2037	12 years

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\* In the case of an Officer election that occurs at a special meeting of the General Synod not reflected on the Transitional Officer Terms chart, the UCCB will recommend and the General Synod will determine such an Officer’s term and eligibility for reelection at the time of election, adhering as closely as possible to the Transitional Officer Terms chart.