

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.  
254

255 **Commissioned Ministers**

256 141 A Member in Discernment seeking initial recognition and authorization as a Commissioned  
257 Minister applies with the Member in Discernment's Local Church to the Association of which  
258 that church is a member.

259  
260 142 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with  
261 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected and preparation to meet the  
262 responsibilities of the office to be filled, and make its recommendation of fitness to the  
263 Association. If upon acceptance of the recommendation or upon further examination and decision  
264 by the Association itself, the applicant is found to be qualified, commissioning thereby is  
265 authorized.

266  
267 143 Commissioned Ministers are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Licensed  
268 Ministers on the rolls of the Association.

269  
270 144 A Commissioned Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another and who  
271 continues in the specific church-related ministry, applies for a transfer of the commission to the  
272 new Association.

273  
274 145 A Commissioned Minister seeking to be commissioned for a new or different church-related  
275 ministry applies to the Association for commissioning for the new ministry.

276  
277 146 A Commissioned Minister who ceases to function in the specific church-related ministry to  
278 which the minister was commissioned resigns the commission or applies to the Association for  
279 Leave of Absence. Leave of Absence is granted for one year at a time, but not more than three  
280 consecutive years.

281  
282 147 A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be  
283 recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of  
284 Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly  
285 reviewed.

286  
287 **Licensed Ministers**

288 148 A Member in Discernment seeking recognition and authorization as a Licensed Minister  
289 applies with the Member in Discernment's Local Church to the Association of which that church  
290 is a member.

291  
292 149 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with  
293 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected, preparation to meet the  
294 responsibilities of the office, educational and theological attainments, and knowledge of the  
295 history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If the applicant is found to be  
296 qualified, a license is granted by the Association for not more than one year to serve in a  
297 designated Local Church or within that Association. Following a review by the Committee on  
298 Ministry, the license may be renewed annually for two more years after which the Association  
299 may grant the license for a time determined to be appropriate.

300  
301 150 At the request of the Local Church which the person serves, the Association may grant the  
302 Licensed Minister the right to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church for this Local  
303 Church.

304

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.  
478

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 ~~biennium~~ General Synod term  
512 shall not be fewer than 675 nor more than 725. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be chosen  
513 by each Conference from among its authorized ministers in full standing and persons with  
514 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and the members of its Local Churches. Conferences may  
515 initiate and consider nominations from the Associations. From each Conference, except in  
516 Conferences having three delegates, (a) lay persons shall constitute at least fifty percent of the  
517 delegates and (b) the delegation shall reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to the  
518 values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; it shall be representative of people of diverse races,  
519 ethnicities, genders, gender expressions and youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of  
520 each delegation shall be under 30 years of age at the time of the commencing of their terms, and  
521 where possible, be represented equally by (1) youth, persons of high school age; and (2) young  
522 adults, persons graduated from high school or over 19 years of age). In Conferences with three  
523 delegates the above requirements for representation are recommended but shall not be mandatory.  
524 Despite any lack of exact compliance with these requirements, actions of a General Synod which  
525 is 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, a period of four years, terminating at the opening of the third~~  
531 ~~second regular meeting of the General Synod following such election; provided, however, that~~  
532 ~~each Conference delegation shall be divided into two classes with terms expiring in alternate~~  
533 ~~bienniums. Conference delegates may serve two consecutive terms. Conferences are encouraged~~  
534 ~~to have delegates serving initial terms and delegates serving second terms in their delegations.~~  
535 ~~When the number in one class from a given Conference exceeds the number in the other class by~~  
536 ~~more than one, the Conference shall at the earliest possible opportunity make use of a two-year~~  
537 ~~term for one delegate or fill any delegate vacancy that may occur in such a way as to equalize the~~  
538 ~~two classes. No delegate who has served a full two consecutive terms shall again be elected until~~  
539 ~~after at least two years have one General Synod term has elapsed. Delegates shall be members of~~  
540 ~~all regular and special meetings of the General Synod which are held during their term of office~~  
541 ~~unless they have become separated from the Conference which elected them. Conferences~~  
542 ~~electing delegates to a four-year term for the 2023 meeting of the General Synod under the 2021~~  
543 ~~United Church of Christ Bylaws may extend the terms of delegates to 2028 or hold such~~  
544 ~~additional elections to special terms as necessary to ensure a full delegation to any special~~  
545 ~~meetings and the 2028 meeting of the General Synod, and compliance with this Bylaw thereafter.~~

#### 546 **United Church of Christ Board Delegates**

547 197 The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting delegates at the General  
548 Synod, and their term shall be concurrent with their terms as members of the United Church of  
549 Christ Board.  
550

#### 551 **Historically Underrepresented Groups Delegates**

552 198 There shall be forty (40) Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, four (4) from each  
553 of the Historically Underrepresented Groups: Council for American Indian Ministry; The  
554 Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific  
555 Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; UCC Disabilities Ministries;  
556 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; the United Samoan Ministries; the Open and  
557 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ; and the UCC Mental Health Network. The  
558

**Commented [HK1]:** We have heard that it is difficult to find GS delegates to serve for two General Synods. This change is designed to encourage, but not require, Conferences to keep delegates for 6 years. It eliminates the two classes of delegates but allows for that possibility.

**Commented [HK2]:** Conferences will be without GS delegates between 2027 and 2028 unless given a mechanism to cover the gap.

559 term of Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired  
560 terms, shall begin at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their  
561 election and shall continue for a ~~period of four years~~ General Synod term, terminating at the  
562 opening of the ~~second third~~ regular meeting of the General Synod following such election.  
563 Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates may serve two consecutive terms. No delegate  
564 who has served a ~~full term~~ two consecutive terms shall again be elected until after at least ~~two~~  
565 years have one General Synod term has elapsed. Historically Underrepresented Groups electing  
566 delegates to a four-year term for the 2023 meeting of the General Synod under the 2021 United  
567 Church of Christ Bylaws may extend the terms of delegates to 2028 or hold such additional  
568 elections to special terms as necessary to ensure a full delegation to any special meetings and the  
569 2028 meeting of the General Synod, and compliance with this Bylaw thereafter.

Commented [HK3]: Similar provision to Conferences.

#### 571 Associate Delegates

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

#### 580 Ecumenical Delegates

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

#### 587 Moderators of the General Synod

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

594 202 The Moderator shall preside at the sessions of the General Synod.

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

602 204 The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall include an authorized minister or a person with  
603 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson, and shall reflect the diversity to which the  
604 United Church of Christ is committed.

#### 606 Committees of the General Synod

607 205 The General Synod shall have such Committees as it may deem necessary, including but not  
608 limited to those named hereafter.  
609

610 206 **Nominating Committee** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 16 members elected by  
611 the General Synod as follows:  
612

613 a) Ten members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the Conferences, as  
614 follows: At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the  
615 United Church of Christ Board shall invite each Conference not currently represented on  
616 the Nominating Committee to submit the name of an authorized minister or a person with  
617 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and the name of a layperson for possible  
618 membership on the Nominating Committee as an at-large member. The United Church of  
619 Christ Board shall submit these names, to the General Synod. Not more than one of the  
620 at-large members of the Nominating Committee shall be from any one Conference.  
621 Notwithstanding this requirement, if a member of the Nominating Committee moves to a  
622 Conference from which there is another member of the Committee currently serving, the  
623 member moving to the Conference currently served by another member shall continue to  
624 serve as a member of the Nominating Committee until the end of the **bienniumGeneral**  
625 **Synod term**. The position on the Nominating Committee held by the member who moved  
626 becomes vacant at the end of the **biennium-General Synod term** during which the above  
627 change in Conference occurs.  
628

629 b) Four members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the following  
630 groups: the Council for American Indian Ministry; The Colectivo de UCC Latinx  
631 Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian  
632 American Ministries; United Black Christians; United Samoan Ministries, the Open and  
633 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ; UCC Disabilities Ministries; the  
634 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; and the UCC Mental Health Network. At  
635 least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the United Church  
636 of Christ Board shall invite each of the six groups not currently represented on the  
637 Nominating Committee to submit the names of an authorized minister or a person with  
638 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson for possible membership on the  
639 Nominating Committee. The United Church of Christ Board shall submit to the General  
640 Synod for election the number of names needed to maintain four members from these  
641 groups on the Nominating Committee. Two members will be an authorized minister or a  
642 person with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and two members will be laypersons.  
643 The Conference affiliations of the representatives from these groups will not affect the  
644 determination of the Conference affiliation of the at-large members elected in accordance  
645 with paragraph **201a206a**.  
646

647 c) Two members will be appointed from among the members of the United Church of  
648 Christ Board.  
649

650 d) The diversity of the Nominating Committee shall reflect the diversity requirements for  
651 the United Church of Christ Board, as set forth in these bylaws.  
652

653 e) (i) A member of the Nominating Committee who has served a full term shall not be  
654 eligible for re-election until a **biennium-General Synod term** has elapsed. Terms of  
655 members shall begin at the close of the General Synod **meeting** at which the members  
656 have been elected and continue to the close of the third regular General Synod **term** after  
657 their election. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be named by the  
658 United Church of Christ Board from the members of the Nominating Committee within  
659 six months after each regular meeting of the General Synod. (ii) **Notwithstanding the**  
660 **preceding provision, the terms and eligibility for Nominating Committee members called**

**Commented [HK4]:** Amendment missed in earlier revisions.

**Commented [HK5]:** No change to number of terms of Nominating Committee, but number of years is extended from 6 to 9. This means the terms of the Nom Com members will be automatically extended. Nom Com should be on our list of folks to communicate with in advance, specifically.

661 at meetings of the General Synod from 2015 through 2025 shall be governed by the  
662 Transitional Nominating Committee Terms chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to  
663 account for a time of transition as the General Synod term changes from two years to  
664 three years.  
665

666 207 The Nominating Committee of the General Synod, prior to the call for nominations, reviews  
667 the composition of the continuing membership of the United Church of Christ Board and  
668 determines the needed nominations. In its call for suggestions of names, the Nominating  
669 Committee will indicate the criteria consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws which will be  
670 used for filling positions on the United Church of Christ Board. Each Conference or group to be  
671 represented shall provide at least two names for each of the positions.  
672

673 208 The Nominating Committee shall make all nominations for election by the General Synod for  
674 which the Constitution and Bylaws do not otherwise provide. The Nominating Committee shall  
675 consider, but not be limited to, such attributes as candidates' leadership, a wide range of life  
676 experience and background including socio-economic, cultural competency, financial knowledge,  
677 fund raising experience, community building skills, commitment to justice, and understanding of  
678 good governance. The Nominating Committee shall maintain records of suggested nominees and  
679 their qualifications.  
680

681 209 The Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring that the membership of the United  
682 Church of Christ Board embodies the commitment of the United Church of Christ to diversity and  
683 balance, both in its overall composition and in its internal segments. In order to achieve this end,  
684 the Nominating Committee may, if necessary, approach any group submitting and/or  
685 recommending names with the request that they assist in that task by presenting additional names.  
686

687 210 When selecting candidates for offices, the Nominating Committee shall consider all names  
688 submitted.  
689

690 211 The Nominating Committee shall submit its report to the General Synod at least twenty-four  
691 hours before the elections are scheduled to take place, unless the General Synod, by a three-  
692 fourths vote, consents to an earlier election.  
693

#### 694 **Credentials Committee**

695 212 The Credentials Committee shall be the United Church of Christ Board or persons designated  
696 by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The Credentials Committee will  
697 review the composition of the Conference and other voting delegations for compliance with the  
698 composition requirements of these Bylaws and is empowered to request changes in membership  
699 to all voting delegations so that said delegations and the Delegation as a Whole will be in  
700 compliance with the provisions of these Bylaws.  
701

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

703 213 The Budget Committee, the Business Committee, and the Committee of Disposition at each  
704 regular and special meeting of the General Synod shall be the United Church of Christ Board or  
705 persons designated by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The role and  
706 scope of the Budget Committee, Business Committee and the Committee of Disposition shall be  
707 determined by the United Church of Christ Board.  
708

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

710 214 The General Synod shall call by election, from among the members of the United Church of  
711 Christ, the General Minister and President, the Associate General Ministers, and such other  
712 officers of the United Church of Christ as the General Synod may from time to time determine.  
713

714 215 Each Officer of the United Church of Christ serves at the will of the General Synod, and may  
715 be terminated as an Officer of the United Church of Christ by the United Church of Christ Board  
716 acting as the General Synod ad interim in accordance with the United Church of Christ Board's  
717 procedures.  
718

719 216 (a) The term of each Officer of the United Church of Christ shall be two regular ~~meetings~~  
720 ~~terms~~ of the General Synod, terminating at the opening of the third regular ~~meeting-term~~ of the  
721 General Synod following such election, ~~not to exceed three terms~~, and shall commence within  
722 ninety days following call by election by the General Synod. Officers of the United Church of  
723 Christ shall hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified and have assumed  
724 the duties of their office. Officers of the United Church of Christ may be reelected, but not more  
725 than ~~twice~~once, subject to the call by election of the General Synod. (b) Notwithstanding the  
726 preceding provision, the terms and eligibility for reelection of Officers called at meetings of the  
727 General Synod from 2015 through 2025 shall be governed by the Transitional Officer Terms  
728 chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to account for a time of transition as the General Synod  
729 term changes from two years to three years.  
730

#### 731 **General Minister and President**

732 217 The General Minister and President, who shall have Ordained Ministerial Standing or  
733 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, is called to ministry in and on behalf of the United Church  
734 of Christ upon election by the General Synod.  
735

##### 736 a) Spiritual Leader of the Church:

737 The General Minister and President is the spiritual leader and pastor of the Church,  
738 charged with the care and nurture of the spiritual life of the Church. The General Minister  
739 and President is responsible for the unity and well-being of the Church, and for nurturing  
740 its covenantal life and ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and leading the visioning,  
741 planning, coordination and implementation of the total mission of the United Church of  
742 Christ.  
743

##### 744 b) Theological Interpreter:

745 The General Minister and President is the principal leader in interpreting the theological  
746 perspectives and values of the United Church of Christ as guided by the General Synod  
747 and in consultation with the Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General  
748 Minister and President is the chief representative of the United Church of Christ in the  
749 public square and at ecumenical, interdenominational and interfaith tables.  
750

##### 751 c) Convener:

752 The General Minister and President will convene and preside at the meetings of the  
753 Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is  
754 responsible for coordinated communication, fund raising and planning in collaboration  
755 with the Associate General Ministers. The General Minister and President is a member of  
756 the Mission Planning Council.  
757

##### 758 d) Chief Executive Officer:

759 The General Minister and President is the Chief Executive Officer of the General Synod  
760 and is its principal spokesperson. The General Minister and President oversees the

761 administration of the National Setting offices. The General Minister and President leads  
762 and directs the work of the Associate General Ministers and the Officers of the United  
763 Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is the executive ultimately  
764 responsible for all hiring and termination decisions in the National Setting of the United  
765 Church of Christ. The General Minister and President may from time to time delegate  
766 administrative responsibilities as the needs of the Church and good judgment dictate.

767  
768 The General Minister and President serves as the corporate President of the United Church of  
769 Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, and all other corporations related to the  
770 Covenanted Ministries. The General Minister and President determines the delegation and  
771 direction of the work of the Covenanted Ministries to the Associate General Ministers, with the  
772 affirmation of the United Church of Christ Board.

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

783  
784 218 The General Minister and President is accountable to the General Synod and the United  
785 Church of Christ Board, acting as the General Synod ad interim.

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

807  
808 **Associate General Ministers**

809 220 An Associate General Minister may be a lay person, an authorized minister, or a person with  
810 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. Each Associate General Minister serves as an appointed

811 member of the United Church of Christ Board and accordingly as a member of the Board of  
812 Directors of each Covenanted Ministry.  
813

814 221 Each Associate General Minister will be responsible for the work of the Covenanted  
815 Ministries, as delegated and directed by the General Minister and President and affirmed by the  
816 United Church of Christ Board of Directors.  
817

818 222 As led by the General Minister and President, each Associate General Minister will be  
819 involved in the overall functions of the National Setting, including visioning and planning,  
820 communications, development and management of budgets, development and leadership of staff,  
821 and implementation of policies adopted by the General Synod and the United Church of Christ  
822 Board.  
823

824 223 Each Associate General Minister will be accountable to the General Synod through the  
825 United Church of Christ Board. Each Associate General Minister serves at the will of the United  
826 Church of Christ Board and may be terminated by the United Church of Christ Board, acting as  
827 the General Synod ad interim, in accordance with its procedures.  
828

829 224 Each Associate General Minister is an Officer of the United Church of Christ.  
830

831 225 Each Associate General Minister is to be nominated for an initial term by a search committee  
832 of the United Church of Christ broadly representative of the Church, appointed by and from the  
833 United Church of Christ Board. The search committee shall include the General Minister and  
834 President; one Conference Minister, named by the Council of Conference Ministers; one  
835 representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance,  
836 from the COREM members on the Board of Directors and one representative of the UCC  
837 Disabilities Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the UCC Disabilities Ministries  
838 member on the Board of Directors, each with voice and vote. At least one member shall be a  
839 youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully respected in  
840 the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Officers of the United  
841 Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is to be confirmed by a two-  
842 thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors before the candidate's name is  
843 placed in nomination before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election,  
844 and nominations may not be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of  
845 the General Synod is necessary for the call by election. An Associate General Minister does not  
846 participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. The Associate General  
847 Minister is evaluated regularly by a process approved by the United Church of Christ Board of  
848 Directors. The evaluation process shall include the General Minister and President, with voice  
849 and vote. Terms of office shall begin within ninety days following their election. An Associate  
850 General Minister shall hold office until the Associate General Minister's successor has been  
851 elected and qualified and has assumed the duties of the Office.  
852

853 226 In the event that an Associate General Minister is unable to discharge the responsibilities of  
854 that position, or if there is a vacancy in the office, the United Church of Christ Board of  
855 Directors, in consultation with the General Minister and President, may appoint an Acting  
856 Associate General Minister, who shall be an Acting Officer of the Church, according to its rules  
857 and procedures acting as the General Synod ad interim. An Acting Associate General Minister  
858 shall serve until the Associate General Minister returns to service, or is replaced by a successor  
859 called by election by the General Synod.  
860

861 **United Church of Christ Board**

862 227 The United Church of Christ Board continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor  
863 bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of  
864 Christ.

865  
866 228 The United Church of Christ Board shall consist of up to 52 members. Thirty-six members  
867 shall serve in at-large positions and up to 16 members shall be appointed members with voice and  
868 vote. The composition of the United Church of Christ Board shall embody the commitment of the  
869 United Church of Christ to be a diverse, equitable, and inclusive Church open and accessible to  
870 all, reflecting a balance of leadership among people of diverse races, ethnicities, genders, gender  
871 expressions, and sexuality. All members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting  
872 members, except as legally proscribed and noted below.

873  
874 229 The 36 at-large members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee, and  
875 elected by the General Synod as members of the United Church of Christ Board, shall reflect the  
876 following composition at the time of their election:

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

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

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

913  
914 230 Appointed members of the United Church of Christ Board with voice and vote shall include:  
915

- 916 a) The Officers of the United Church of Christ.  
917  
918 b) The Moderator and the Assistant Moderator of the General Synod.  
919  
920 c) One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term  
921 of two years. Any such member shall be eligible to serve up to two additional terms and  
922 not to exceed three terms.  
923  
924 d) Six principal ministers of Conferences, one to be elected from each Region by the  
925 Council of Conference Ministers for a term of ~~two years~~ one General Synod term, not to  
926 exceed two consecutive terms. If any such member ceases during the member's term of  
927 office on the United Church of Christ Board to be the principal minister of a Conference  
928 within the Region from which said member was elected, a vacancy shall be thereby  
929 created to be filled by election by the Council of Conference Ministers.  
930  
931 e) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc.  
932  
933 f) The Executive of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ  
934  
935 g) The Executive of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries  
936

937 231 Although members of the United Church of Christ Board may be nominated or selected by  
938 particular groups, each member serves on behalf of, and bears responsibility for, the well-being of  
939 the whole Church.  
940

941 232 The United Church of Christ Board shall elect, from its members who are elected by the  
942 General Synod, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson according to its own Standing Rules.  
943

944 233 The United Church of Christ Board shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall not  
945 be members of the United Church of Christ Board, and shall have voice but no vote. The  
946 Secretary and the Treasurer may be appointed from staff members at the National Setting, who  
947 shall report to the General Minister and President, who is directly accountable to the United  
948 Church of Christ Board.  
949

950 234 The Secretary and the Treasurer shall have the customary duties of a corporate secretary and  
951 treasurer to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.  
952

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

954 235 The United Church of Christ Board shall act for the General Synod ad interim, and, in  
955 cooperation with the Officers of the United Church of Christ, shall provide coordination and  
956 evaluation of the work of the Church and shall carry out such other responsibilities as may be  
957 from time to time delegated to it by the General Synod or as provided for in these Bylaws or the  
958 Constitution.  
959

- 960 a) The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible for strategic planning and  
961 policymaking. The Committees of the United Church of Christ Board shall make  
962 recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board for strategic  
963 planning, policymaking, and oversight purposes. The United Church of Christ Board

964 shall receive recommendations from the Investment and Endowment Committee  
965 regarding the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the  
966 mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries. Recommendations as to the annual draw  
967 rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of  
968 the annual draw rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic  
969 donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds shall not be modified  
970 by the United Church of Christ Board except upon a two-thirds vote of the members  
971 present of the full Board.  
972  
973 b) The United Church of Christ Board is responsible for policies relating to the mission  
974 of the United Church of Christ in its National Setting. It shall support the on-going work  
975 of the General Synod through its various ministries, planning for and encouraging  
976 cooperation among those ministries, with Local Churches, Associations, and  
977 Conferences, and with other expressions of the Church which contribute to and embody  
978 God's mission in Jesus Christ. It shall support the spiritual and financial health of the  
979 Church, and shall ensure the presence and implementation of policies which contribute to  
980 the health of the Covenanted Ministries in relationship with one another and their  
981 accountability to the General Synod. It shall receive reports from the Officers of the  
982 United Church of Christ and provide oversight and support for the work of that body. It  
983 shall facilitate the business of the General Synod and assume such other tasks as may be  
984 assigned to it by the General Synod. It shall be a focal point for decision-making, overall  
985 planning and evaluation, and budgeting in the National Setting. It shall receive and report  
986 upon divergent points of view and maintain an open channel for the consideration of  
987 minority or dissenting opinion. It shall submit a report of its work to the General Synod at  
988 each regular meeting. In cooperation with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated  
989 Ministries it shall make an annual informational report to the Local Churches and the  
990 Conferences about the total program of the Church in the National Setting.  
991  
992 236 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, or committees of the General Synod, or in the  
993 membership of the United Church of Christ Board, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled by  
994 the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be  
995 reported to the next General Synod.  
996  
997 237 The United Church of Christ Board shall make such elections, nominations or appointments  
998 as these Bylaws or action of the General Synod may require.  
999  
1000 238 Acting as the Budget Committee for the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board  
1001 shall determine the allocation of funds from denominational support. The United Church of Christ  
1002 Board, acting as the Budget Committee, shall also receive and review the past and projected use  
1003 of denominational funds allocated to each Covenanted Ministry and recommend the  
1004 denominational support threshold amount for each General Synod regular meeting interval.  
1005  
1006 239 The United Church of Christ Board shall be an incorporated body in order to ensure that it  
1007 may effectively and expeditiously perform all legal functions of the General Synod and all of its  
1008 other functions as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.  
1009 The membership of the Corporation shall consist of those persons described in the Bylaws as  
1010 members of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ, who shall be elected or  
1011 affirmed in the manner therein provided and who shall have the right to vote only to the extent  
1012 granted by the Bylaws. Those members shall also be the Directors of the Corporation. The  
1013 Corporation shall have such officers as required by law and as provided in these Bylaws. The  
1014 Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs bylaws and rules not

1015 inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation nor with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and  
1016 regulations of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

1017  
1018 240 The United Church of Christ Board shall serve as the Business Committee of the General  
1019 Synod during its sessions, and as such shall prepare the agenda and schedule for all meetings of  
1020 the General Synod, recommend changes therein during sessions, and appoint committees not  
1021 otherwise provided.

1022  
1023 **Administration of the National Setting Offices**

1024 241 The General Minister and President shall oversee the administration of the National Setting  
1025 offices.

1026  
1027 **Committees of the United Church of Christ Board**

1028 242 The United Church of Christ Board shall have such other Committees as it may deem  
1029 necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter, and each may draw on expertise  
1030 beyond the Board if necessary.

1031  
1032 **Ministry Committees**

1033 243 The United Church of Christ Board shall establish committees relating to the mission and  
1034 ministry of the United Church of Christ (the Ministry Committees). Each Ministry Committee  
1035 shall make recommendations to the United Church of Christ Board regarding ministry priorities  
1036 and policy. The Ministry Committees will honor the diversity commitments of the United Church  
1037 of Christ and work in covenant with each other and National Setting staff. To the extent possible  
1038 while still maintaining expertise needed on the Ministry Committees, the composition of each  
1039 Ministry Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to a  
1040 multicultural and multiracial Church, with leadership reflecting race and gender diversity, open  
1041 and accessible to all. To the extent possible while still maintaining expertise needed on the  
1042 Ministry Committees, each United Church of Christ Board member will be assigned to a Ministry  
1043 Committee based on that individual's experience, expertise, personal passion and spiritual calling.  
1044 Individuals also will be considered based on the role that they may serve as members of the  
1045 Common Global Ministries Board, the mission partnership between the United Church of Christ  
1046 and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each Ministry Committee will elect a chairperson  
1047 and a vice-chairperson, subject to the requirement that at least one of these positions must be held  
1048 by a person of color in each Ministry Committee.

1049  
1050 **Executive Committee**

1051 244 The Executive Committee shall consist of up to 16 members of the United Church of Christ  
1052 Board, as follows:

- 1053  
1054 a) Chairperson and vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board  
1055  
1056 b) Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Governance  
1057 Committee, Investment and Endowment Committee, and Development Committee  
1058  
1059 c) The Officers of the United Church of Christ  
1060  
1061 d) One Conference Minister  
1062  
1063 e) Moderator of the General Synod  
1064  
1065 f) Three additional at-large members, one from each of the three classes

1066  
1067 g) To the extent possible while still maintaining diversity and expertise, the composition  
1068 of the Executive Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of  
1069 Christ to a multicultural and multiracial Church, with membership reflecting age, race,  
1070 and gender diversity, open and accessible to all.  
1071

1072 245 The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to ensure that visioning and strategic  
1073 planning be done on behalf of the National Setting of the Church. It will lead the United Church  
1074 of Christ Board in developing and articulating comprehensive and integrated strategies and goals  
1075 for the National Setting. The Executive Committee will facilitate the United Church of Christ  
1076 Board's identification of concerns and ideas related to communications, identity, fundraising,  
1077 fund development, strategic planning, evangelism, and other critical issues for the life of the  
1078 whole Church. The decision-making power and authority of the Executive Committee shall be  
1079 governed by the standing rules of the United Church of Christ Board.  
1080

1081 **Finance and Budget Committee**

1082 246 The Finance and Budget Committee shall consist of up to 12 members of the United Church  
1083 of Christ Board, including:

- 1084 a) Chairperson or vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board  
1085  
1086 b) Six representatives of the United Church of Christ Board  
1087  
1088 c) General Minister and President  
1089

1090  
1091 247 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- 1092 a) Reviewing the annual available resources and being responsible for financial planning.  
1093  
1094 b) Reviewing the proposed Annual Budget recommended by the General Minister and  
1095 President in consultation with key staff and mission partners, such as Common Global  
1096 Ministries.  
1097  
1098 c) Recommending the Annual Budget to the United Church of Christ Board.  
1099  
1100 d) Receiving and reviewing regular financial reports.  
1101  
1102

1103 **Investment and Endowment Committee**

1104 248 The Investment and Endowment Committee shall consist of up to 14 members and shall be  
1105 members of the United Church of Christ Board (except as noted below), including:

- 1106 a) Six representatives from the United Church of Christ Board  
1107  
1108 b) The Officers of the United Church of Christ  
1109  
1110 c) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc., with voice but without vote  
1111  
1112 d) The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may add up to three  
1113 individuals with legal and/or investment expertise who are not members of the United  
1114 Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.  
1115  
1116

- 1117 249 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:  
1118  
1119 a) Assuring that the legacy/historic restrictions on the use of restricted funds and the  
1120 intended use restrictions of the unrestricted funds of each of the historic ministries are  
1121 monitored, accounted for, maintained and reported to the United Church of Christ Board  
1122 annually. The Committee shall monitor and oversee the allocation of both restricted and  
1123 unrestricted funds to ensure that they will be allocated based on donor intent, whenever  
1124 that can be determined and to provide the full Board an overview of all funds in order to  
1125 encourage the most effective collaborative and holistic use of those funds to meet the  
1126 missional needs of the Church.  
1127  
1128 b) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board investment policies including  
1129 investment screens that reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to  
1130 corporate social responsibility.  
1131  
1132 c) Managing the investment of the endowed funds and other assets including real  
1133 property in accordance with investment policies approved by the United Church of Christ  
1134 Board.  
1135  
1136 d) Monitoring and reporting on the management of invested funds to the United Church  
1137 of Christ Board.  
1138  
1139 e) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the annual draw rate on invested  
1140 funds that may be used to carry out the mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries.  
1141 Recommendations as to the annual draw rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar  
1142 amounts resulting from the application of the annual draw rate to each of the restricted  
1143 endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the  
1144 unrestricted endowment funds shall be accepted by the United Church of Christ Board  
1145 unless modified by a vote of two-thirds of the members present of the full Board.  
1146  
1147 f) Reviewing, monitoring and recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the  
1148 allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the spending rate  
1149 to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses  
1150 of each of the unrestricted endowment funds.  
1151  
1152 g) Providing Board representation to the Investment Committee of the United Church  
1153 Funds, Inc.  
1154

1155 **Audit Committee**

1156 250 The Audit Committee shall consist of such members as determined by the United Church of  
1157 Christ Board, provided that members of the Board must comprise a majority of the members of  
1158 the Audit Committee. The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may  
1159 include on the Audit Committee individuals with legal and/or financial expertise who are not  
1160 members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.  
1161 All Committee members shall be voting members.  
1162

- 1163 251 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:  
1164  
1165 a) Retaining the audit firm to perform the annual financial audit.  
1166

1167 b) Receiving and reviewing the audit report from the auditors and reporting to the United  
1168 Church of Christ Board.

1169  
1170 c) Such other duties as assigned by the United Church of Christ Board.

1171

1172 **Regions**

1173 252 The United Church of Christ Board shall make an appropriate assignment of the several  
1174 Conferences into Regions. The Regions as thus determined shall form the basis for Conference  
1175 representation on national bodies wherever required by the Bylaws.

1176

1177 **Organization of the United Church of Christ Board**

1178 253 The United Church of Christ Board shall organize itself as it deems necessary to carry out its  
1179 responsibilities and fulfill its mandates.

1180

1181 **Advisory Commissions**

1182 254 The United Church of Christ Board may provide for special advisory commissions on  
1183 subjects of pervasive interest to the entire Church on which the United Church of Christ Board  
1184 and/or the General Minister and President need policy or substantive advice. Members of such  
1185 commissions and its chairperson shall be appointed by the United Church of Christ Board  
1186 pursuant to its Standing Rules and shall include at least one member of the United Church of  
1187 Christ Board.

1188

1189 **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION**

1190 255 The work of the United Church of Christ shall be carried out by the United Church of Christ  
1191 Board, the Covenanted, Affiliated, Associated Ministries, Councils, and other such bodies as may  
1192 from time to time be created by, or related to, the General Synod or the United Church of Christ  
1193 Board.

1194

1195 **COVENANTED MINISTRIES**

1196 256 The Covenanted Ministries are Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and  
1197 Wider Church Ministries.

1198

1199 257 The General Minister and President oversees the programmatic work of the Covenanted  
1200 Ministries, which shall be carried out in accordance with the policies, planning, and broad  
1201 oversight of the United Church of Christ Board as provided in these Bylaws.

1202

1203 **LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES**

1204 **Purpose and Mission**

1205 258 The purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support the  
1206 Local Churches of the United Church of Christ in the fulfillment of God's mission. It continues  
1207 the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified  
1208 in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation.  
1209 The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Local Church Ministries  
1210 shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of  
1211 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff  
1212 assigned by the General Minister and President. Local Church Ministries shall retain  
1213 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have  
1214 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

1215

1216 259 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries, the United Church of  
1217 Christ Board shall encourage Local Churches to shape their life and mission in partnership with

1218 one another, with other expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical and interfaith  
1219 communities. The United Church of Christ Board will work to promote the vocation of all  
1220 members, leadership of laity and clergy, and facilitate a system of ecclesiastical call. The United  
1221 Church of Christ Board will nurture stewards, and will coordinate and promote denomination-  
1222 wide mission funding. The United Church of Christ Board will work with Local Churches in  
1223 striving for the vitality of Local Churches as inclusive and accessible communities of mission,  
1224 evangelism, church development, education, unity, worship, nurture, and justice so that the good  
1225 news of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed in word and deed.

1226  
1227 260 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1228 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church.

1229  
1230 **Governance and Leadership**

1231 261 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries shall be  
1232 incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United  
1233 Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and  
1234 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the  
1235 rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries performs the  
1236 functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to  
1237 carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations.  
1238 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the  
1239 purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated  
1240 funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation  
1241 and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility  
1242 for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing,  
1243 and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant  
1244 authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf  
1245 within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of  
1246 Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the  
1247 Church necessary for implementing its mission.

1248  
1249 262 Members of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole  
1250 Church.

1251  
1252 **JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

1253 **Purpose and Mission**

1254 263 The purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage  
1255 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of  
1256 Christ to engage in God's mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice,  
1257 and peace. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other  
1258 ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its  
1259 articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of  
1260 Justice and Witness Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of  
1261 Christ Board. The United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be  
1262 coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the General Minister and President. Justice and  
1263 Witness Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received,  
1264 maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal  
1265 of its legacies or other property.

1266  
1267 264 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Church  
1268 of Christ Board shall encourage the Church in all of its expressions to speak prophetically on

1269 matters of justice, power, and public policy. The United Church of Christ Board shall assist the  
1270 Church in all of its expressions to confront expressions of injustice and alienation in the Church  
1271 and in the society. The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for the Church's  
1272 ministry of service on behalf of those who are poor, the forgotten and the oppressed, and for those  
1273 marginalized by stigma and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or their disabilities,  
1274 including mental illness. The United Church of Christ Board may provide public witness on  
1275 behalf of the justice and witness policies of the General Synod.  
1276

1277 265 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1278 Churches, Associations, Conferences, national expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical  
1279 and interfaith groups, and community organizations.  
1280

#### 1281 **Governance and Leadership**

1282 266 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
1283 shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the  
1284 United Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the  
1285 Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and  
1286 bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Justice and Witness  
1287 Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such  
1288 additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of  
1289 associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it  
1290 has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted,  
1291 restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is  
1292 responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its  
1293 own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its  
1294 mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its  
1295 office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other  
1296 appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and  
1297 those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task  
1298 groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.  
1299

1300 267 Members of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries serve on behalf of the  
1301 whole Church.  
1302

#### 1303 **WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES**

##### 1304 **Purpose and Mission**

1305 268 The purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support  
1306 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of  
1307 Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church, accessible to all, and to  
1308 support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. It continues the work  
1309 of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies and continues other ministries, as specified in the  
1310 Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation. The  
1311 program, administrative, and financial development functions of Wider Church Ministries shall  
1312 be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of  
1313 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff  
1314 assigned by the General Minister and President. Wider Church Ministries shall retain  
1315 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have  
1316 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.  
1317

1318 269 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of  
1319 Christ Board shall strengthen relationships with partner churches and oversee participation in the

1320 Common Global Ministries Board in joint venture with the Christian Church (Disciples of  
1321 Christ). The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for institutional ministries in  
1322 health care, education, disaster relief, and social services in the United States and internationally.  
1323 It shall also coordinate volunteer ministries in all expressions of the Church. In cooperation with  
1324 partner churches it shall promote interfaith dialogue and global education and advocacy issues.  
1325 Through the Common Global Ministries Board, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee  
1326 the sending and receiving of missionaries.  
1327

1328 270 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local  
1329 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church and of the  
1330 ecumenical and interfaith bodies.  
1331

1332 **271 Governance and Leadership** Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ,  
1333 Wider Church Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised  
1334 of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as  
1335 defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of  
1336 incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of  
1337 Wider Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and  
1338 such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of  
1339 associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it  
1340 has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted,  
1341 restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is  
1342 responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its  
1343 own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its  
1344 mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its  
1345 office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other  
1346 appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and  
1347 those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task  
1348 groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.  
1349

1350 272 Members of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole  
1351 Church.  
1352

#### 1353 **OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1354 273 The Officers of the United Church of Christ, defined in Article IV of the Constitution of the  
1355 United Church of Christ, support and consult with the United Church of Christ Board and the  
1356 Covenanted Ministries in carrying out their work in a spirit of coordination and cooperation. The  
1357 General Minister and President is the presiding Officer. Led by the General Minister and  
1358 President, the Officers of the United Church of Christ are responsible for providing leadership for  
1359 the mission programming in the United Church of Christ and for the proper implementation of  
1360 General Synod actions. The Officers of the United Church of Christ coordinate research, long-  
1361 range planning, program evaluation, and report on the ongoing programs of the United Church of  
1362 Christ.  
1363

1364 274 The Officers of the United Church of Christ are convened by the General Minister and  
1365 President as the presiding officer and consult with the United Church of Christ Board and the  
1366 General Synod. They shall consult regularly with the leaders of the Affiliated and Associated  
1367 Ministries of the United Church of Christ. They meet regularly with the Cabinet of the Council of  
1368 Conference Ministers.  
1369

#### 1370 **MISSION PLANNING COUNCIL**

1371 275 The Mission Planning Council provides a multi-missional setting which brings together the  
1372 Officers of the United Church of Christ, and principal staff of the United Church of Christ Board  
1373 and the Covenanted, Associated, and Affiliated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, for  
1374 planning coordinated ministries and for visioning and exploring new perspectives over a wide  
1375 range of mission, theological, ecumenical, spiritual, stewardship, financial, justice,  
1376 communications, gender, disability, and racial issues and concerns. The Mission Planning  
1377 Council is responsible for the coordination and correlation of mission and purpose and for  
1378 maintaining mutual trust, mutual accountability, and the wise use of leadership and talents. It is  
1379 designed to encourage cooperation and sharing of talents among the Ministries. The Mission  
1380 Planning Council may invite others to participate, including representatives of Conferences and  
1381 partner churches, as it deems appropriate. The General Minister and President coordinates the  
1382 tasks, meetings, agendas, and follow-up actions of the Mission Planning Council.

1383  
1384 **AFFILIATED MINISTRY**

1385 276 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, The Pension Boards—United  
1386 Church of Christ is an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ and serves the Church  
1387 and its United Church of Christ Board and Covenanted Ministries as a separate corporation.

1388  
1389 277 The purpose of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is to make available  
1390 ministerial welfare activities and a system of employee benefit programs designed to assist  
1391 authorized ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and  
1392 retirement years.

1393  
1394 278 The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ continues as a nonprofit membership  
1395 corporation which determines its own governance and leadership. The Pension Boards—United  
1396 Church of Christ will have membership on the United Church of Christ Board.

1397  
1398 **ASSOCIATED MINISTRY**

1399 279 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the United Church Funds, Inc., is  
1400 an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ, and  
1401 serves the Church, the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries as a  
1402 separate corporation related to the United Church of Christ Board.

1403  
1404 280 The purpose of the United Church Funds, Inc. is to provide a means by which individuals and  
1405 organizations of the Church may further exercise their stewardship of resources for the sake of  
1406 strengthening the mission of the Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United Church of  
1407 Christ.

1408  
1409 281 The United Church Funds, Inc. will work cooperatively with the United Church of Christ  
1410 Board to facilitate comprehensive financial planning and development; and will continue its  
1411 relationship with The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ. It shall have membership on the  
1412 United Church of Christ Board.

1413  
1414 282 The corporate membership of the United Church Funds, Inc. shall consist of 15 persons  
1415 nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board for ~~three General Synod terms of six~~  
1416 ~~years~~, one-third to be elected each ~~biennium-General Synod term~~ and to serve until their  
1417 respective successors are elected and qualified. The General Minister and President of the United  
1418 Church of Christ and the chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board shall be appointed  
1419 members. At least two of the members elected ~~each biennium~~ ~~General Synod term~~ shall not be  
1420 members of the United Church Funds, Inc. at the time of their election. The United Church of

1421 Christ Board may remove a member of the United Church Funds, Inc. and shall fill vacancies for  
1422 unexpired terms.

1423  
1424 **Other Provisions**

1425 283 No person shall serve in more than one General Synod elected position simultaneously.  
1426 Further, no employee of a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry shall serve as a voting  
1427 member of the United Church of Christ Board, except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws.

1428  
1429 284 All members of the United Church of Christ Board, with the exception of the representatives  
1430 from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), shall be members of the United Church of Christ.

1431  
1432 **ARTICLE V. INDEMNIFICATION**

1433 285 Any Officer of the United Church of Christ, or any member, including officers and directors,  
1434 of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board or the Councils, Commissions, and  
1435 Committees of the General Synod may, to the full extent allowed by law, be indemnified by the  
1436 United Church of Christ Board against all judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement of,  
1437 and against all reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily, incurred  
1438 in defense of any lawsuit, proceeding or prosecution (including appeal thereof) wherein such  
1439 person is made a party by reason of being such officer or member to the extent such person is not  
1440 otherwise indemnified by another entity. This provision shall also extend to any lawsuit,  
1441 proceeding, or prosecution in which such officer or member is made a party in such person's  
1442 capacity as an officer or member of another organization in which the person serves at the request  
1443 of any of the above entities or bodies.

1444  
1445 286 In all other lawsuits, proceedings, or prosecutions, indemnity shall not be made unless the  
1446 officer or member acted in good faith and for a purpose which the person reasonably believed to  
1447 be in the best interests of the Entity or body of which the person is an officer or member and in  
1448 criminal actions or proceedings only upon the additional requirement that the person had no  
1449 reasonable cause to believe that the operative conduct or inaction was unlawful.

1450  
1451 287 These indemnity provisions shall also operate for the benefit of anyone duly serving in a  
1452 representative capacity for such member or officer.

1453  
1454 288 The United Church of Christ Board is authorized to purchase insurance providing  
1455 indemnification pursuant to the provisions of the preceding. Any such contract of insurance may  
1456 afford coverage for matters as to which the United Church of Christ Board may not give  
1457 indemnity.

1458  
1459 **ARTICLE VI. OTHER BODIES**

1460 The following groups are identified as related in covenant to the United Church of Christ, through  
1461 a primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board.

1462  
1463 **COUNCILS**

1464 **Council for American Indian Ministry**

1465 289 Created by the Eighth General Synod in 1971 (71-GS-77) and given its present mandate by  
1466 the Sixteenth General Synod in 1987 (87-GS-58), the Council for American Indian Ministry  
1467 (CAIM) is a national body with primary responsibility for providing Christian ministry and  
1468 witness in American Indian settings, and is a resource to the whole United Church of Christ in  
1469 understanding and supporting American Indian churches and communities. The Council for  
1470 American Indian Ministry supports and gives general direction to the American Indian members  
1471 and congregations of the United Church of Christ, advocating with them, through CAIM's

1472 Recognized Unit of Ministry, to embody their own cultures and values and to be vital parts of the  
1473 United Church of Christ and the Conferences in which they are located. The Council for  
1474 American Indian Ministry encourages and supports the identification, enlistment, and support of  
1475 American Indian candidates for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Working with  
1476 American Indian people throughout the United Church of Christ, the Council seeks to develop  
1477 broad bases of visibility, nurture and support for American Indian people, communities, and  
1478 churches. The Sixteenth General Synod vote calls for CAIM to be accountable to the General  
1479 Synod through the United Church of Christ Board and to be funded from one-third of the net  
1480 income of the neighbors in need offering.  
1481

#### 1482 **Council for Higher Education**

1483 290 The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be composed of the academies, colleges, and  
1484 theological schools that indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of  
1485 Christ and that are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of  
1486 representative(s) from the United Church of Christ Board. For purposes of business and policy  
1487 making, member academies, colleges, and theological schools shall be represented by each  
1488 institution's executive head or other key officer as designated by each institution's executive  
1489 head. The Council shall organize with its own chairperson, secretary, and any other officers  
1490 needed to carry on its work. All officers shall be executive heads of their institutions. The Council  
1491 shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board;  
1492 this provision not precluding the Council's right to direct access to the General Synod concerning  
1493 any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of  
1494 such access. An Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President  
1495 shall be an advisory member of the Council with voice but without vote. The Council shall be  
1496 organized in two sub-sections: College and Academy Section, and Seminary Section. The  
1497 Council for Higher Education shall advance and interpret higher education in the United Church  
1498 of Christ, including the cultivation of closer relationships between the educational institutions and  
1499 the Church, the expression of the connection between faith and knowledge in those institutions,  
1500 and, in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board, the promotion of education as an  
1501 integral part of the Church's mission.  
1502

#### 1503 **Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries**

1504 291 Created by the Fourteenth General Synod (83-GS-43) the Council for Racial and Ethnic  
1505 Ministries (COREM) provides a place where racial and ethnic groups can develop their common  
1506 agenda, collaborate with appropriate program and mission bodies of the United Church of Christ  
1507 so that resources for racial and ethnic ministries will be effective and relevant, discern appropriate  
1508 ways by which the many and varied gifts of racial and ethnic groups may be made available to the  
1509 Church, and advocate for racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ. It is  
1510 composed of two representatives each from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry  
1511 (PAAM), The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries, the Council for American Indian Ministry  
1512 (CAIM), United Black Christians (UBC), Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice  
1513 (MRSEJ), and United Samoan Ministries (USM) who are accountable to the groups that send  
1514 them. COREM is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board.  
1515

#### 1516 **Council for Theological Education**

1517 292 The Council for Theological Education (CTE) shall be responsible for fostering mutual  
1518 accountability between the United Church of Christ and the Seminaries of the United Church of  
1519 Christ, for periodic reviews of the criteria for being designated as a Seminary of the United  
1520 Church of Christ, and for the general well-being of the relationship between the seminaries and  
1521 the United Church of Christ. The Council will exercise care for the Seminaries, explore ways by  
1522 which theological education contributes to the leadership needs of the Church, foster cooperation

1523 among the Seminaries, and facilitate communication and appropriate engagement between the  
1524 Seminaries of the United Church of Christ and Historically Related Seminaries and with other  
1525 seminaries which provide theological education for persons preparing for authorized ministry in  
1526 the United Church of Christ. Seminaries of the United Church of Christ retain full membership  
1527 and responsibility in the Council for Higher Education and its seminary section. The Council will  
1528 provide comment to the United Church of Christ Board whenever the United Church of Christ  
1529 Board prepares to recommend a seminary for recognition as a Seminary of the United Church of  
1530 Christ. The Council shall be composed of the President and one additional representative from  
1531 each of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, a representative from one of the  
1532 Historically Related Seminaries, two representatives from the Council of Conference Ministers  
1533 elected by that Council, two conference staff persons who relate to a Committee on Ministry  
1534 and/or work with the search and call process from a conference not otherwise represented on the  
1535 Council, four persons who serve on a Committee on Ministry, the General Minister and President,  
1536 and an Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President. The General  
1537 Minister and President will assign staff members as necessary to support the programmatic work  
1538 of the Council. An intentional effort will be made to ensure that those who have been historically  
1539 under-represented be present in the membership of the Council. The Council shall meet annually  
1540 and shall elect its own officers each ~~biennium~~ **General Synod term**.

1541  
1542 **Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

1543 293 The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM) shall serve to advocate,  
1544 support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United  
1545 Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod  
1546 on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society.  
1547 It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in  
1548 all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young  
1549 adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource  
1550 regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not  
1551 limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and the  
1552 General Synod). The Council shall organize itself as needed in order to carry out its work and  
1553 shall have direct access to the United Church of Christ Board and the General Synod in areas of  
1554 program and budget. The Council's composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ's  
1555 commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in church governance.

1556  
1557 **Council of Conference Ministers**

1558 294 The Council of Conference Ministers (CCM) shall be composed of the Conference Ministers  
1559 of the several Conferences. The General Minister and President shall be a member ex-officio,  
1560 without vote, of the Council and its Cabinet. It shall select a chairperson and such other officers  
1561 and committees as it shall deem necessary. It shall elect from its members those who are to serve  
1562 on the United Church of Christ Board and in other representative positions, distributing those  
1563 positions among the Regions. It shall maintain a close relationship with the Officers of the United  
1564 Church of Christ, the United Church of Christ Board, and national units the Covenanted  
1565 Ministries, the Affiliated Ministry, and the Associated Ministry with respect to matters affecting  
1566 the life of the Church.

1567  
1568 **Historical Council**

1569 295 The Historical Council (HC) shall be composed of twelve members, with at least one  
1570 representing the following historical organizations: Eden Seminary Archives, Evangelical and  
1571 Reformed Historical Society (ERHS), Congregational Library and Archives, the Amistad Center,  
1572 the Franklinton Center, and the UCC Archives. The remaining six shall be appointed by the  
1573 United Church of Christ Board (including one rep from the Christian Connection/Christian

1574 Tradition). One-third shall be named each biennium-General Synod for a term of six-yearsthree  
1575 General Synod terms, to serve until their respective successors are named and qualified, and not  
1576 to exceed two terms. The United Church of Christ Board will name from these twelve members  
1577 the chairperson. The Council shall meet at the call of the General Minister and President or the  
1578 chairperson. It shall act in an advisory capacity to the General Minister and President and the  
1579 United Church of Christ Board in engaging with the archives of the United Church of Christ and  
1580 of the other historical organizations, in expressing interest and concern for all archival collections  
1581 related to the several heritages of the denomination, in recommending the amount to be allocated  
1582 in the contributions budget for the historical organizations, and in reminding the United Church  
1583 of Christ of its traditions. The Council shall receive financial support through the United Church  
1584 of Christ Board and staff support as assigned by the General Minister and President.  
1585

#### 1586 **Council for Health and Human Service Ministries**

1587 296 The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) was recognized by the  
1588 Fifteenth General Synod as an organization composed of institutions and programs in health and  
1589 welfare related to the United Church of Christ and accepted by the CHHSM as conforming to its  
1590 standards. The CHHSM is organized with its own Directorate and Officers. The purposes and  
1591 functions of the CHHSM shall include: 1) The support and nurture for its member institutions and  
1592 programs in fulfillment of their ministries as part of the mission of the United Church of Christ;  
1593 2) Representation of the ministries of its member institutions and programs to the General Synod  
1594 and United Church of Christ Board in the conduct of the mission of the United Church of Christ  
1595 in health and welfare; 3) Cooperation with the Conferences and the United Church of Christ  
1596 Board in the process of Conference recognition of health and human service ministries,  
1597 monitoring the authorization to seek funds within Conferences, and approval of requests to  
1598 conduct capital campaigns; 4) Provision, annually, to the United Church of Christ Board, the  
1599 names of those member institutions and programs which conform to the standards set by  
1600 CHHSM; 5) Cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board in collecting information on  
1601 institutions and programs in health and welfare to be listed in the *United Church of Christ*  
1602 *Yearbook*; and 6) Participation in secular, ecumenical, and inter-faith networks in the field of  
1603 health and welfare.  
1604

#### 1605 **SELF-CREATED GROUPS**

##### 1606 **The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries**

1607 297 The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries is a diverse community of children of a God who  
1608 created us to flourish in this world, to live in interconnection with one another and creation  
1609 through intentional relationships grounded in love, justice, and peace. We believe in Jesus' Good  
1610 News message of extravagant welcome to ALL at the table of God, the acknowledgement and  
1611 value of the diversity of people and their gifts, the promise of life in abundance, and freedom and  
1612 wholeness for all of creation. In the spirit of mutual accountability, The Colectivo de UCC Latinx  
1613 Ministries commits to sharing our experience and gifts with the whole church as we claim our  
1614 place within the body of Christ, seeking to be members, not a mission of the United Church of  
1615 Christ. Our membership is comprised of individuals, congregations, Associations, Conferences,  
1616 and nationally based ministries of United Church of Christ who have endorsed the values and  
1617 goals of the Colectivo and agree to join in covenant to strengthen and support the mission and  
1618 ministry of Latinx people in the UCC. We also welcome dialogue and connections with  
1619 ecumenical partners and community-based organizations that share our values.  
1620

##### 1621 **Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice**

1622 298 Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ) is a group which brings together  
1623 clergy who advocate on behalf of African Americans in church and society, providing a caucus of  
1624 ministers for fellowship, for sharing mutual concerns, and for actions regarding the agenda of the

1625 black constituency within the United Church of Christ. MRSEJ challenges, monitors, initiates,  
1626 and supports the cause of African American involvement to the fullest possible measure in the  
1627 life of the United Church of Christ.

1628

1629 **UCC Disabilities Ministries**

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

1641

1642 **Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries**

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

1652

1653 **United Black Christians**

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

1661

1662 **The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ**

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

1674

1675 **United Samoan Ministries**

1676 303 United Samoan Ministries was organized in 2010 and recognized by the Twenty Ninth  
1677 General Synod in Long Beach, California, in 2013. USM conducted its reorganization process  
1678 between 2011 and 2014. USM is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan  
1679 congregations in the United Church of Christ to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual  
1680 support, and communications to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. USM also seeks but is not  
1681 limited to: strengthening channels of communication among Samoan congregations in the United  
1682 Church of Christ (UCC) and their respective ministries; exchanging of information and building  
1683 communication about the UCC in all its settings including local congregations, Associations,  
1684 Conferences, National Ministries and Global Partners; establishing a setting for collective  
1685 decision-making that will fulfill the USM Mission Statement and strengthen the covenantal  
1686 relationships among Samoan congregations within the UCC; providing a setting to develop and  
1687 enhance the leadership and cultural identities among Samoan congregations in order to empower  
1688 them in the UCC; and recognizing and celebrating the unique insights and contributions of  
1689 Samoans throughout the life of the UCC. USM encourage all Samoans of all ages to affirm their  
1690 unique ethnic and cultural identities while embracing the Still Speaking God and find joy,  
1691 spiritually “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”  
1692

#### 1693 **UCC Mental Health Network**

1694 304 The UCC MHN faithfully seeks to understand and address the impact of mental health  
1695 challenges on the members of our congregations, in our communities, and our society. We  
1696 encourage all settings of the UCC to be welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with  
1697 persons who are living with a mental health challenge, brain disorder, and substance use disorder.  
1698 All are invited into the Body of Christ, and those living with mental health conditions are  
1699 welcomed into the work and leadership of the Church. Through educational materials,  
1700 conferences across the country, practical resources, stories from individuals and congregations,  
1701 and the WISE for Mental Health certification, the UCC MHN answers Jesus’ call to build the  
1702 Kingdom of God. We urge congregations, Associations, and Conferences of the UCC to become  
1703 WISE about mental health as a way to live fully with justice, peace, and love. The UCC MHN  
1704 Board of Directors does this work through a diversity of people, especially those who are  
1705 personally living with mental health challenges, brain disorders, substance use disorders, and  
1706 their loved ones, as well as professionals in mental health and recovery from addiction.  
1707

#### 1708 **Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers**

1709 305 The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers (AACM) is in service of all persons who  
1710 serve in the role either designated as Associate Conference Minister or all the various titles of  
1711 those functioning in similar job responsibilities and expectations. The AACM serves to support,  
1712 equip, and network those who serve in a staff or called position doing Conference ministry in the  
1713 support of the Conference Minister and the Conference.  
1714

#### 1715 **Relationships**

1716 306 Unless otherwise designated in these Bylaws, each of the aforementioned bodies shall have a  
1717 primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board which shall serve as its primary  
1718 linkage to the national expressions of the United Church of Christ, to which it shall report  
1719 annually. This primary relationship shall be defined by the United Church of Christ Board in  
1720 consultation with the respective group. The designated relationship shall be reviewed each  
1721 ~~biennium~~ **General Synod term** by the appropriate partners, and may be changed upon the mutual  
1722 consent of those partners, and so declared by vote of the United Church of Christ Board. The  
1723 General Minister and President shall be responsible for initiating said review.  
1724

1725 In effect July 3, 2017; amendments approved by the General Synod in 2017 that were contingent upon ratification of the amendments  
1726 to the Constitution were effective October 13, 2018. Updated effective June 25, 2019 upon recognition by the General Synod of The  
1727 Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries and UCC Mental Health Networks as Historically Underrepresented Groups.

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

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APPENDIX A

Transitional United Church of Christ Board Terms

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

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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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**Transitional General Synod Nominating Committee Terms**

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

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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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1759  
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**Transitional Officer Terms\***

<u>Officer Elected at GS:</u>	<u>First Re-Election</u>	<u>Second Re-Election</u>	<u>Final Expiration</u>	<u>Possible GS Terms</u>	<u>Total Possible Time</u>
<u>2017</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2028</u>	5: <u>2017-2019</u> <u>2019-2021</u> <u>2021-2023</u> <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u>	<u>11 years</u>
<u>2019</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2031</u>	5: <u>2019-2021</u> <u>2021-2023</u> <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u>	<u>12 years</u>
<u>2021 (Special)</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2031</u>	4: <u>2021-2023</u> <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u>	<u>10 years</u>
<u>2023</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>Not eligible</u>	<u>2034</u>	4: <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u> <u>2031-2034</u>	<u>11 years</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>2031</u>	<u>Not eligible</u>	<u>2037</u>	4: <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u> <u>2031-2034</u> <u>2034-2037</u>	<u>12 years</u>

1761 \* In the case of an Officer election that occurs at a special meeting of the General Synod  
1762 not reflected on the Transitional Officer Terms chart, the UCCB will recommend and the  
1763 General Synod will determine such an Officer's term and eligibility for reelection at the  
1764 time of election, adhering as closely as possible to the Transitional Officer Terms chart.  
1765