



Christian Church in Ohio

D I S C I P L E S O F C H R I S T

A covenant network of congregations in mission:

We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ
to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

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

ARTICLE I – THE NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ), formerly known as the Ohio Society of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

ARTICLE II – THE CORPORATION

The Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) has been incorporated as a corporation not for profit organization under Chapter 1702 of the Revised Code of Ohio and may exercise any and every power which such a corporation is authorized to exercise.

ARTICLE III – THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall be to do all things, both corporately and through Ohio local Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), to implement the Will of God for humankind and to promote the establishment of God's Kingdom in this world; to strengthen the life, witness and mission of local Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio; to witness and carry on mission in their behalf; and to relate them to the life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and its instrumentalities.

ARTICLE IV – THE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall be composed of the following:

- a. All recognized Christian Churches' (Disciples of Christ) congregations located in the regional church of Ohio as listed in the Yearbook of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).
- b. All ordained and licensed ministers who are residents of the regional church of Ohio and who have standing with the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ).

Section 2. The authority of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall reside in its members except as such authority is vested in the Regional Church Council.

ARTICLE V – ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. The Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall meet biennially in an Assembly to transact the business of this organization, to provide experiences of fellowship, inspiration, worship, and education to meet congregational needs, and to provide resources for congregational vitalization. It shall meet at a time and place determined by the Assembly or by the Regional Church Council.

Section 2. Upon a sixty (60) day notice to the ministers and local Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ), the Regional Church Council may call a special assembly at a time and place it shall determine.

Section 3. A quorum for business sessions shall be those present and voting.

ARTICLE VI – GOVERNANCE

Section 1. In order to faithfully live out the mission of the Christian Church in Ohio, a Regional Church Council will be appointed as designated in the Bylaws of the regional church and elected by the regional assembly. This Regional Church Council, while maintaining diversity and inclusivity, (between laity and clergy, men and women, age groups, racial/ethnic groups, and geographical sections of Ohio), will endeavor to be comprised of individuals committed to the vision and mission of the regional church and possess the necessary spiritual gifts to carry out its work.

Section 2. The business and affairs of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall be managed by the Regional Church Council between Assemblies. It shall have all of the powers of the Assembly and such other powers and duties as are usual and customary to a Regional Church Council under the Chapter 1702 of the Revised Code and as provided in this Constitution and in the Bylaws.

a. The officers of the Regional Church Council shall include: the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

b. The Regional Church Council shall be empowered to fill all vacancies which occur in membership of the Regional Church Council or among the elected officers of this organization until a successor is qualified and elected at the next ensuing Biennial Assembly.

c. A quorum for business sessions of the Regional Church Council shall be one half (1/2) of the voting members of the Council.

Section 3. The officers of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall include: the Regional Pastor & President, the Moderator of the Regional Church Council, the Vice Moderator of the Regional Church Council, and the Secretary of the Regional Church Council.

Section 4. The Regional Pastor and President, elected by the Regional Church Council, shall serve as the President and shall have the title of Regional Pastor and President.

Section 5. The Regional Church Council and/or the Assembly may create and establish Committees, Commissions, and the other instrumentalities which are necessary for the work of this organization and may terminate such instrumentalities when they have served their purpose. All such instrumentalities shall be under direct authority and supervision of the Regional Church Council.

ARTICLE VII – PASTORAL STAFF

Section 1. The Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) may have a pastoral staff composed of a Regional Pastor and President and other ordained clergy. The Regional Pastor and President shall provide pastoral care and nurture of the congregations and ministers within the region, as well as primary administrative oversight of all regional work.

Section 2. The Regional Pastor and President and the pastoral staff shall be elected and called by the Regional Church Council in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII – RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. As a part of the whole Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall be mutually related to the General expression of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and its units and to local Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in covenantal relationships.

Section 2. The Christian Church in Ohio may also enter into covenantal relationships with other organizations whose purposes are compatible with those of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), by action of the Regional Church Council and/or Regional Assembly.

Section 3. Congregational Rights and Responsibilities. (Adapted from the Design)

Congregations constitute the primary expression of the community of faith within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Through congregations, individuals are brought to the saving grace of Christ, baptized into the Body of Christ, nurtured in their faith, and gather at the Lord's Table. Joined in discipleship, congregation's partner with their regions and the general ministries of the church to share the good news from their doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

This constitution affirms that congregations in their freedom in Christ have both rights and responsibilities. As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), congregations share creatively in the church's total mission of witness and service. Equally, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in its general and regional ministries sustains congregations through commitment to their welfare and needs. Thus, concern for the integrity of each expression is shared and witness is given to the interrelatedness of the whole church. Among the rights recognized and safeguarded to congregations are the rights to manage their affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ; to adopt or retain their names, corporate documents, and organization of ministry; to determine, in faithfulness to the gospel, their practices; to own, control, and encumber their property; to organize for carrying out the mission and witness of the church; to establish their budgets and financial policies; to call their ministers; and to participate through voting representatives in forming the corporate judgment of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Among the responsibilities by which congregations demonstrate their mutual concern for the mission and witness of the whole church are the responsibilities to proclaim the gospel and administer baptism and the Lord's Supper; to provide for the spiritual nurture of their members and families; to grow in understanding that the church is a universal fellowship, transcending all barriers within the human family; to engage in evangelism; to sustain their ministers in faithfulness and honor and, in matters pertaining to relationships with them, to seek counsel from the Regional Pastoral Staff; to be faithful in Christian stewardship, striving to share proportionately in providing the resources for the total life, work, and witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); to choose voting representatives to the General and Regional Assemblies; to share with other ministries of the church in the establishment and nurture of new congregations; and to seek to realize the oneness of the church of Jesus Christ through cooperation with other congregations and with present and emerging ecumenical structures.

While congregations are responsive to the needs of general and regional ministries, as established through the participation of the congregations' representatives in the General and Regional Assemblies, all financial support of the general and regional programs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by congregations and individuals is voluntary.

ARTICLE IX – BYLAWS

The Regional Church Council shall adopt Bylaws which shall set forth the procedures for the operation of this organization. The Regional Church Council shall have the power to adopt, amend or terminate any By-Law by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to the constitution may be submitted by a local congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to the Regional Church Council or may be submitted directly by the Regional Church Council. Such proposed amendments shall be circulated among all local congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and clergy sixty (60) days prior to the Assembly in which action is to be taken. Adoption of a proposed amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates present and voting.

ARTICLE XI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws or the special rules of order of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ).

ARTICLE XII – SCHEDULE

This Constitution shall take effect upon the approval by the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ).